



DIM LIGHTS MOVE WILL CUT COSTS

Report by Heather Large

THOUSANDS more street lights across Dudley can now be dimmed as part of a £4.5 million project to save money.

Lamps in the borough have been fitted with new energy-saving LED lanterns as part of a move to cut the council's energy bills.

Now 26,000 of the council's 32,000 street lights can be controlled to save energy and 19,400 of these can be dimmed.

It is estimated the move could save £100,000 during the next financial year.

Two years ago the council began the project to upgrade the borough's lamps with lights that use around half the energy. The £4.5m was also spent on a new computer system.

By swapping traditional bulbs for LED (light-emitting diode), maintenance costs for the lamps are also much lower.

Lighting levels can be cut at night using a dimming device when there is less traffic.

In total around 27,000 lights will be converted or replaced as part of the project.

The council's chief executive Sarah Norman said: "The Street Lighting Central Management System (CMS) was fully commissioned and operational in April 2013 and conversion of the street lighting stock continues.

"As at August 24, 26,000 of the council's 32,000 street lights can now be controlled via the CMS system remotely to help save energy; 19,400 of these can be dimmed.

Spend is forecast to be within budget and completion of the scheme is expected during financial year 2015/16."

The central management system gives council workers greater control of the lights via a radio-controlled telecel device, which is controlled through the computer system.

Trial

Before the project began a trial was carried out on the Priory estate which saw 100 outdated lamps replaced with modern white lights.

The team piloted 10 different types of energy-saving fittings in roads in the Priory area to establish which option offers best value for money.

During the past two years, the council has also spent thousands of pounds replacing dangerous or outdated lampposts.

Last year the council revealed plans to turn off lights after midnight in some areas from 2016 onwards.

Bosses hope it makes little difference as most people are in bed between midnight and 5am.

Dudley Council is not the only authority working to reduce energy costs.

Across the border in Sandwell, thousands of street lights are also being fitted with new energy-saving devices at a cost of £1.8m.

Sandwell Council says the move will slash £400,000 from its annual energy bills.

IT'S BLOOMING LOVELY IN THE CHARITY GARDEN



Celebrating a successful first year — Charlie Hilken, Jake Carter and Janet Hilken at the Jasmine Road Community Garden

A COMMUNITY garden group is celebrating a blooming marvellous first year as growers for charity.

The Jasmine Road Community Gardens, in Kates Hill, Dudley, was given charitable status a year ago and group members held a garden show and entertainment to celebrate, attracting more than 100 people.

Janet Hilken, chairperson of the group, said: "Our first year has been fantastic. It has been hard work but worth it.

"Our show was to celebrate the success of our first year along with our charity status.

"We had entertainment from the Sedgley Strummers and our earth oven was open baking bread. It was lovely."

The show raised £253 from sales and donations. The group has received grants from Wolves Aid, Comic Relief and Sobell Foundation. It provides work experience and training to people with learning disabilities, mental health issues and long-term unemployed.

Jasmine Road Community Gardens was set up following the closure of St Thomas' Network in July 2014.

Mrs Hilken, who previously was chief executive of the network, said: "We work alongside lots of different people in the community, growing vegetables and plants and selling them on. It is extremely important to the community and we knew we had to keep the project alive, so we are happy that our first year has been such a success."

"We are a voluntary organisation, with about 10 members at the moment, but we are always on the look out for more volunteers to come down and help us out.

Visit www.jas_minerroadgardens.org/about for more information.

RETAIL

New market call for teenage traders

A MARKET giving teenage entrepreneurs the chance to showcase their wares will take place for the first time in Dudley.

Up to 30 stalls will be set up in Stone Street Square for the Teenage Market Day on October 31. It's the first event of its kind to be held in the borough and has been organised by Dudley Ambassadors scheme with funding from the European Regional Development Fund and Dudley Council.

A call has gone out to all young entrepreneurs to take up a free stall at the event. See www.theteenagemarket.co.uk/town/dudley

STABBING

Five arrested after man seriously hurt

FIVE people were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a man was found with serious stab wounds in Cradley Heath.

Two other men were arrested for affray after the victim, in his 20s, suffered head and chest injuries in an attack in Littlehill Crescent on Friday.

All seven were freed on bail on Sunday pending further inquiries.

Police said the man suffered 'life changing injuries' and was in a serious but stable condition in hospital.

TECHNOLOGY

Computer network to get major overhaul

A £175,000 scheme to upgrade Dudley Council's computer network — the first in 16 years — is about to happen and officials warn of possible disruption.

All of the authority's systems, including telephones and online services, will be shut down on Sunday for the work to be carried out.

There will be no access for making payments, checking on-line records, using the council's internet page, e-mailing or calling the council.

Bosses said they would try and minimise disruption and Councillor David Sparks said the upgrade was long overdue.

INSIDE

STARS OUT FOR REUNION GIG



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Councils are willing to take refugees

MORE than 100 Syrian refugees are estimated to be coming to the Black Country and Staffordshire, as councils work out how to help and house them.

Wolverhampton council alone is predicting around 20 people will make up its share of 20,000 refugees the UK has pledged to take. Similar numbers are likely in Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell, based on the size of the population – if councils agree to accept them.

Birmingham City Council has already offered places for 50.

It comes as petitions have been started urging councils to take in refugees fleeing Syria's civil war, caught between the brutal regime of President Bashar al-Assad and the so-called Islamic State.

But local authority bosses are concerned that Government funding to help them with refugees is only guaranteed for a year.

The new arrivals will be given a one off allowance of £200 each for clothing while councils will work to house refugees in private rented homes.

Councils will also get funding to

provide English language courses for refugees, social care costs and extra funding for schools to cater for more pupils.

Dudley Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said the authority had not yet decided how many to accept but it would be around the same number as Wolverhampton.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said a decision had not yet been made but would depend on what funding the Government would offer.

Councillor Philip Atkins, Leader of

Staffordshire County Council, said: "We know that there is not a simple answer to this crisis in Syria and the impact on those fleeing its borders.

"Britain has a long history of providing a home to genuine refugees. It has taken 5,000 people from the Syrian conflict already and has provided more than £1bn in aid to help desperate people such as these – and clearly more still needs to be done.

"We will of course be willing to do all we can to support and welcome any families into our county and into our communities if asked."

Paedophile's appeal over his sentence is rejected

A 'PREDATORY' paedophile who carried out a campaign of sex abuse against a vulnerable young girl has been told by top judges his jail term was not a day too long.

Joseph Royton Morton, aged 37, groomed his victim and subjected her to more than 50 sexual attacks.

Morton, of Central Drive, Coseley, was jailed for 22 years at Wolverhampton Crown Court on December 16 of last year.

He had been found guilty of 12 sexual offences against his victim, including four rapes.

Last week, Lord Justice Laws, Mr Justice Mitting and Mr Justice Walker, sitting at London's Criminal Appeal Court, heard Morton's lawyers argue that he was treated too harshly.

The court heard that his victim was so traumatised by what had happened to her that she had self-harmed and had even attempted to take her own life in the aftermath of Morton's offending against her.

Lord Justice Laws said that Morton's 'predatory instincts had taken over' and that he had 'conducted a campaign of sexual abuse'.

Dismissing his appeal against the sentence, the judge said: "The victim must have been suffering severe psychological distress.

"There was no remorse and the offending was at the top end of such behaviour.

"The sentence of 22 years reflected the totality of the offending."

Highlighting sight and hearing loss

AN event will highlight issues surrounding sight loss and health at Brierley Hill.

Thomas Pocklington Trust hold a Sight and Health Fair with Beacon Centre for the Blind on Monday at Brierley Hill Civic Hall between 10am and 4pm.

It is a joint effort by the trust, a national sight loss charity with a resource centre in Stourbridge, and the Sedgley-based Beacon Centre for the Blind.

Organisations that have already pledged their support including SENSE, Dudley Healthwatch, the Citizens' Advice Bureau, The Alzheimer's Society and Parkinson's UK.

The event also takes place as part of National Eye Health Week. For further details call the trust's Laura Hedley on (01384) 440333 or email laura.hedley@pocklington-trust.org.uk

Council on list for social media award

DUDLEY Council has been shortlisted in the Best use of Facebook category in the UK social media communications awards 2015.

The council's online community forums, where people can online the council leader, caught the judges' eyes.

Ex-boyfriend is jailed for revenge porn image

A MAN from Wordsley who changed his ex-girlfriend's Facebook profile picture to a graphic image, taken while they were a couple, has been jailed for 10 months under new 'revenge porn' laws.

Samuel Bishop also sent the picture to eight other social network users, including friends, family and work colleagues of his victim.

Dudley Magistrates Court last week jailed Bishop for the offences, saying they were a serious breach of trust. Bishop showed no emotion as he was taken away to begin his sentence.

The court was told the victim had 'felt sick to her stomach' upon realising what Bishop, aged 29, had done.

Bishop and his victim had been in a relationship but had split up. He continued to victimise her and was charged with battery in 2012. The court in Kidderminster was told that he had breached a restraining order in April 2013, leading to eight weeks in prison. There had been no further issues until May 24 this year when the victim woke up to find the intimate photograph had been sent to her new partner's phone.

Miss Val Hart, prosecuting, said: "The picture had been sent to eight different people including her new partner, friends, work colleagues and a family member – all male. She then checked Facebook and found the profile picture had also been changed."

Sentenced

The victim deleted the picture but when she checked Facebook later the same day the profile picture had been changed back to the intimate photograph.

Miss Hart said the victim could not understand why Bishop wanted to hurt her. The photograph had been taken years before when they were still a couple.

Bishop, of Hamilton Drive, had pleaded guilty to two counts of disclosing private sexual photographs with intent to cause distress. He was sentenced to 20 weeks for each charge to be served consecutively and ordered to pay £2,000 compensation.

Mr Andrew Wakeman, defending, said his client had a problem with alcohol and it had led to 'a deep feeling of unhappiness'.

Here we go again — pub fight back on



Tim Haskey (right), leader of the campaign to save the pub, Jim Mumford, Stephanie Peacock and other supporters

CAMPAIGNERS have vowed to battle revived and revised plans for a Co-op store to be built on a pub car park in Cradley Heath – just months after the last bid was thrown out.

Regulars at the Haden Cross thought that they had successfully stopped developers when an application was rejected by Sandwell Council in January.

But New River Retail, who bought hundreds of Midlands pubs from Marstons, now claim to have

addressed issues that saw the original plan fail and have submitted a revised blueprint for a new store.

A public meeting was called by Friends of Haden Cross at the Halesowen Road pub last week with residents and councillors attending.

Chairman of the group, Tim Haskey, said that they had thought they had shaken developers off when the pub was granted Asset of Community Value (ACV) status by the council but the new proposal

had left them feeling downhearted.

The owners have suggested retaining more parking spaces for the pub and making the store's roof lower than the pub's

Mr Haskey said: "I am annoyed that they have come back. New River has proposed more spaces for the pub now from their original proposal but that is still a loss of the 16 spaces and our beer garden."

The Friends group is encouraging everyone to make fresh objections and to sign their new petition.

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Father is facing jail for having a stun gun

A FATHER-OF-THREE faces at least five years in prison after being caught with an electric stun gun that was disguised as a mobile phone.

Banaris Ali also had a BB gas gun when police stopped his car in Hall Street, Dudley on March 9, a judge heard.

The 34-year-old from Fir Street, Dudley pleaded guilty to possession of the disguised firearm, the gas-powered gun and a quantity of cannabis when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

He further admitted drink driving and driving without insurance.

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, explained that Ali has a family and runs a mobile valeting business.

Reports

He added: "He knows the sort of sentence that could follow but wishes to make arrangements and put his affairs in order first."

The defendant was remanded on bail for reports until Tuesday, October 6, when the details of the case will be revealed in court.

But he was told by Judge Amjad Nawaz: "You should not read anything into the fact I have granted you bail."

"One of the offences which you have admitted carries a mandatory minimum sentence of five years unless there are exceptional circumstances."

"It is almost certain that a custodial sentence will follow."

Office block to be demolished

A FORMER office block in Upper Gornal that was once home to a computer training company will be demolished.

Tatton Hall Homes applied to Dudley Council for permission to bulldoze University House in Jews Lane.

The large office building is the former base of Computeach International which sells computer training worldwide. Most of the company's operation was moved to a new purpose-built block just yards away 15 years ago.

Dudley Council's planning officers rubber stamped the demolition project this week.

Tatton Hall Homes has yet to revealed exact plans for the site. New housing developments have been built nearby in recent years.

Make bee-line for some sweet talk

A TALK is being held about bees and their influence on farming. The talk by Tony Break, called Liquid Gold, is at Wordsley Green Community Centre on Monday at 10am. Entrance £2.50 includes refreshments.

£8m bid to rescue theatre ruled out



Hippodrome — demolition a 'travesty'

AN ENTERTAINMENT company behind an £8 million bid to takeover Dudley Hippodrome has ruled out buying the venue.

Dudley Council has offered interested parties a final chance to put forward new business cases to take over the venue by the end of this month.

The Rok Group, led by Wolverhampton businessman Jonathan Kendrick, pulled out of talks earlier this year claiming senior councillors had failed to meet them to discuss the proposed deal.

But in the statement, the firm said:

"It is with regret that the Rok group have decided they no longer wish to pursue the acquisition, refurbishment and reopening of the Dudley Hippodrome."

It continued: "We wish the friends group and any other interested parties the best of luck in securing this historic venue for the people of Dudley and reiterate that demolishing the building would be a travesty."

UKIP group members have called for deputy leader Judy Foster, who had overseen regeneration projects at the time of the bid, to resign.

Councillor Foster said she will not step down saying it would not be normal practice for councillors to meet developers in the early stages of talks.

Talks broke down between with the company and Dudley Council, which owns the Hippodrome, over three main issues — use of the car park to the rear of the building managed by Dudley Zoo, costs of the removal of asbestos and rate relief.

Sedgley councillor and West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge said Councillor Foster's position as deputy leader was 'untenable'.

Elderly face rise in day care cost due to cuts

ELDERLY people may have to pay more for services such as home visits, day care and luncheon clubs due to cuts planned by Dudley Council.

The authority currently has £5.3 million contracts for preventative care and support services.

But some of these face being slashed as the council will be getting less funding from Government.

Age Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen is among 65 organisations which could be hit. The group receives around £216,000 in funding each year to provide its services but will now have to re-tender for funding.

People using The Elton Centre in Stourbridge, Halesowen Day Centre in Green Lane, and a day care centre at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice, currently pay around £8.50 a day. The fee goes towards luncheon clubs and activities. Bosses say this is less than similar organisations which can charge around £25.

Dudley Council says it will need to make funding cuts to the voluntary and community sectors through its service level agreements. But bosses vowed to ensure this happens without reducing front line services.

Future

Age Concern chairman Ken Turner said the group did not want to have to put up prices for users but was worried about what the future may hold.

"It leaves a great deal of uncertainty as we are unsure about how much of the money will we continue to receive," he said. "It will be hard for organisations like ours to plan. We don't want to ask people for more money."

Councillor Dave Branwood, in charge of adult social care, said talks were ongoing with organisations.

"The amount of funding from central government to councils (Revenue Support Grant) decreases significantly over the coming financial years," he said.

"The council will need to carefully look at funding to some organisations as we make sure that the services we have meet the needs for local people. Before any decisions are made we will be working with local groups and speaking to people to look at the potential impact."

"The Care Act requires the council to ensure the quality of its support and consider any impact on the financial arrangements of these organisations."



Jerome Marks-Gardener with the £43,000 bottle of Macallan Liqueur secured for a client by staff at Nickolls and Perks in Stourbridge

Fancy a dram of £43,000 whisky?

A VERY special bottle of whisky with an eye-watering £43,000 price tag has gone on display at a wine merchants in Stourbridge.

The 50-year-old Macallan single malt, which is pricier than most family cars, is on show at Nickolls and Perks.

It works out at around £1,869 for a wee dram of the whisky, which is the first edition made in a collaboration between distillers Macallan and French crystal experts Lalique, who created the limited edition bottle.

Nickolls and Perks had a similar bottle in the shop three years ago, which sold for £15,000 — so the whisky has nearly tripled in price.

Marketing manager Tim Robbins said: "It was one of an edition of 470. Macallan are working with Lalique to produce a series of six editions and this was the very first one, which goes back around six years."

The whisky comes from Macallan's distillery in Speyside. The bottle was acquired on behalf of a collector by the store, which is organising the Midlands Whisky Festival tomorrow (Fri) and Saturday at Stourbridge Town Hall.

NEWS IN BRIEF

It's a New Look for men at Merry Hill

FASHION retailer New Look will open a new standalone menswear store at Merry Hill next month.

Fifteen jobs will be created by the business which will open its doors on October 7. More positions are expected to follow in the future.

It follows the opening of a new cafe which has also created 15 jobs at the shopping centre. Ultimate Cafe has been opened by The Interesting Eating Company on the ground floor of Ultimate Outdoors. The outdoor equipment chain took over the old Kiddicare shop in May.

Robberies in parks causing concern

YOUTHS have been targeting and robbing people in two Cosely parks prompting extra police patrols.

Residents raised concerns with the police over recent incidents in Clayton Park and Silver Jubilee Park.

Coseley East neighbourhood sergeant Jimmy Jones said: "Anti-social behaviour in Cosely parks is always of concern to local residents. The parks have also been targeted from youths out of the area."

Police have worked to curb the problem including events to give youngsters something to do.

NHS Trust meeting and a health fair

DUDLEY and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust will hold its annual general meeting on Thursday, September 24.

The meeting will be held at Walsall College's Wisemore campus at 1.30pm and will feature a review of the year.

The public are invited to attend to find out more about the trust's performance and future plans. Before the meeting, there will be a wellbeing fair opening at 11am with free health checks and information stalls.

Great Scott — talk on world famous explorer

THERE will be an illustrated talk in Stourbridge tonight (Thu) on the explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott and his ill-fated 1912 expedition to the South Pole.

It marks Stourbridge Historical Society's next meeting.

Andrew Lound will present To the Ends of the Earth: Scott of the Antarctic in the Wollaton Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on at 7.30pm.

There will be a £3 admission fee for non-members of the society.

Battle service at church

A SERVICE of thanksgiving to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain is being held in a Dudley church. The service at St Thomas and St Luke, in Vicar Street, known as Top Church, is on Sunday at 11.30am, to remember the air crews whose sacrifice halted Nazi invasion plans.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



INTERESTING, isn't it, how we reveal our opinions about the monarchy in the way we describe the Queen? Do you think of her as the "longest-serving" monarch or the "longest-reigning"?

A NUMBER of you have pointed out that if we had a republican system we might well be ruled over by President Blair and First Lady Cherie. If that happened, there wouldn't be all this agonising about when the Chilcot Report would be published. Never.

MY local bargain-basement shop is asking a mere 99p for its magnetic car tax-disc holders. Good luck with that.

TWENTY thousand Syrian refugees over five years is nothing. Britain could absorb that number in a single month and barely notice it. So why has David Cameron opted for such a tiny figure, exposing himself to finger-wagging? Probably because he has done the bigger sums. The 20,000 from Syria is in addition to the 620,000 newcomers who arrive in Britain each year legally, plus the untold hundreds of thousands who come illegally. Those who accuse Britain of pulling up the drawbridge ignore the fact that the drawbridge was dismantled years ago.

I AM convinced there is a military-misrepresentation department in the BBC whose job is to irritate old soldiers by slipping deliberate mistakes into TV drama. What else could account for basic errors such as squaddies saluting each other while wearing civilian clothes, as seen in



Sherlock, or Private Mellors (Richard Madden) sporting a full beard in the First World War trenches in Sunday's adaptation of Lady Chatterley's Lover? British soldiers shave. Tricky to say but easy to remember.

BRITAIN is not exactly Tornado Alley, is it? We may get a few gales per year but the Met Office's plan to give them all names, as in the United States, seems wildly over the top. The pilot scheme this winter will have alternating male and female names, running from A to Z. The theory is that giving a storm a name increases public awareness. Really? Or is the truth that we just like copying whatever the Yanks do? Here's an all-British alternative which avoids any confusion and spares us the effort of selecting suitable names. We will have Storm One, Storm Two, Storm Three, and so on. Simple, innit?

AS the eternally cash-strapped NHS scratches around to fund weekend GP care and hospital cover, I spotted an advert for a couple of non-executive directors for one trust. The pay is £12,000 per year – but you only have to work four days a month. That's the way the money goes.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Mayor is first to sign book for Queen

DUDLEY'S Mayor has become the first borough resident to sign a special book commemorating Her Majesty the Queen's record reign on the British throne.

Last Wednesday, at around 5.30pm, Queen Elizabeth II officially became Britain's longest serving monarch, reigning longer than her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria.

The borough's first citizen, Councillor Steve Waltho, put pen to paper in the commemorative book which will be sent to the Queen.

The book will tour the borough with the Mayor on his civic engagements for people to add their good will messages before it is sent to Buckingham Palace next month.

More than 30 borough residents, born in 1952, have accepted an invitation to join the Mayor to sign the book at a civic reception at the Council House.

They were joined by the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Peter Tomlinson.

Councillor Waltho said: "This is a great occasion for us to mark and I am delighted to have been part of this historic event by being the first to sign the commemorative book. It gives people the opportunity to pass on their well wishes to the Queen in what is a tremendous achievement."

The book will be available until October 12 and councillors will have the opportunity to sign it at a meeting of the full council. It will then be sent to the Royal family.

The previous record belonged to Queen Victoria, who reigned for 63 years and 216 days.

The book will be available until October 12 and councillors will have the opportunity to sign it at a meeting of the full council. It will then be sent to the Royal family.

The previous record belonged to Queen Victoria, who reigned for 63 years and 216 days.

United in celebrating life of football legend

Report by Andrew Turton

FOOTBALL fans have welcomed news of a major celebration event in Dudley marking the life of Dudley-born England and Manchester United player Duncan Edwards.

Edwards, who had been tipped to follow Wolves hero Billy Wright as England skipper, died aged 21 from injuries sustained in the 1958 Munich air disaster.

A plane containing the United team, supporters and journalists crashed at the German city's airport after a stop to refuel on the way back to England following a match against Red Star Belgrade.

The statue which stands in his honour has been given new prominence in the heart of the historic Dudley market place. After its move across the market place to the Castle Street side as part of a £6 million market revamp, a re-dedication ceremony and service is being held at the statue on October 1.

Brian Mulholland of the Manchester United Supporters' Club said the occasion would be fitting for a footballing legend.

"The service will be a very special day in commemorating a football genius, who, had he lived, would most definitely have been hailed as one of the greatest footballers of all time," he said.

Magnificent

"Sincere thanks go to Dudley Council for all their hard work in organising this magnificent honour."

"On a personal level, myself and two friends, together with our wives, travel to Munich every February to attend a memorial service for the Busby Babes."

The event on Thursday, October 1, is from 10.45am, on what would have been the player's 79th birthday. It will blend a commemoration of Edwards' achievements, a civic ceremony and celebration of today's talent. The player's relatives will be guests of honour and there will be a demonstration of football skills by freestyler Colin Neil.



The statue of Manchester United legend Duncan Edwards, one of 23 victims of the Munich air disaster



MANCHESTER...ENGLAND...MANCHESTER UNITED'S



A front view of the relocated Duncan Edwards statue

New barbecue restaurant to serve up more than 50 jobs

A £300,000 restaurant specialising in American-style food is opening at a hotel near Stourbridge, creating more than 50 jobs.

The US-themed Harleys Smokehouse at the Dunsley Hall Hotel, between Kinner and Stourton, will be employing 53 staff.

It has already held several 'pop-up nights' at the hotel which have been a big hit with diners. The restaurant promises to offer an authentic taste of American barbecue food, and serve up meaty delights like smoked ribs, burgers and pulled pork. It is due to open next month.

Manager Simon Beardsmore said: "We've been doing pop-up nights and they've gone extremely well. There has been a lot of good feedback and we've asked people what they like."

"We've travelled all over the USA to try to really understand the food of the Americas."

Amazing

"The barbecue over there is amazing – we love it. It's a different type of barbecue to what you get over here."

Mr Beardsmore, age 34, said the venue's head chef Martin Dunn has a background in French cuisine and has mastered a new style of cooking.

On the trip to America to source equipment, Mr Beardsmore got tips from American celebrity chef Myron Mixon, a three-time world barbecue champion who has won over 1,700 trophies for his cooking, and has his own US TV show, BBQ Pitmasters.

Fifteen fought flames at garage

FIFTEEN firefighters were called to tackle a blaze at an industrial estate in Brierley Hill.

Flames tore through the car dismantling garage at Brettell Lane Industrial Estate after a forklift truck short-circuited and caught fire.

Around 100 onlookers watched as firefighters tackled the flames which ripped through the unit for around 30 minutes last Tuesday evening, September 8.

The roof was destroyed in the blaze but crews were satisfied the building was still structurally safe. No-one was injured.

Watch commander Darren Kendall from Stourbridge fire station said: "It was a garage repair centre off that trading estate run by Romanians, so there was a bit of a language barrier."

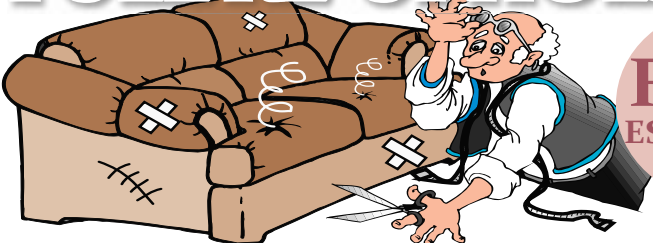
Body of man found in bushes at beauty spot

A MAN was found dead in bramble bushes near a beauty spot, Michael Jayes, aged 71, was found dead off Forge Lane, Sandwell Valley. His death is not believed to be suspicious. Relatives can call coroner's officer Stephen Binsley on 0121 5697205.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Speed crackdown outside school

MOTORISTS have been speeding past a school in Kingswinford.

Police say drivers have been speeding along Lodge Lane, outside The Summerhill School, wo drivers were found flouting the 30mph speed limit during a recent operation.

Further speed check operations are now planned.

Kingswinford Councillor Nicola Richards welcomed the police checks and added that there were also reports of speeding in Kidderminster Road.

"Speed signs are clearly not enough to slow drivers down," she said.

History day at borough archives

PEOPLE are being invited to bring along old photographs and memorabilia to a local history day in Dudley.

Dudley Archives and Local History Centre in Tipton Road is holding the event on Saturday, October 3 from 10am to 4pm.

Items that are taken along will be copied for addition to the archives collection. The free admission event will also include exhibitions, photographic displays, tours and talks. Advice will be available on family research.

For further information call (01384) 812770.

Residents call for boundary changes

AROUND 500 homes could be brought under the governance of Hagley Parish Council.

The homes in West Hagley are under Clent Parish Council but Hagley Residents Action Group raised a 550-strong petition asking for the homes to be transferred to the governance of Hagley Parish Council. They said that would mean a stronger voice when raising problems with Bromsgrove District Council. A final decision will be made next month.

U-turn highway ban is now made permanent

A TEMPORARY order banning drivers from making U-turns along a busy Brierley Hill road is to be made permanent by Dudley Council.

The restriction was imposed at the junction of Pensnett Road and Hickman Road as part of a safety scheme and it was originally put in place for a period of 18 months.

But now the council has decided to make it a permanent order after no objection was received to the ban.

Comedy and coffee

BLACK Country comedienne Marlene will be the guest at a coffee morning on today (Thu) at Tipton Library from 10.30am until noon.

Admission is free for the coffee and comedy event but places should be booked on 0121 557 1796 or email tipton_library@sandwell.gov.uk

More help for families effected by road tragedy

WEST Midlands Police is launching a new department to help the families of road crash victims.

The force has worked with the bereaved to develop its new Family Liaison Support Unit, the first of its kind in the UK.

Previously, the officer acting as their point of contact was chosen at random from a pool of volunteers who all had other police roles too.

With the force averaging between 80 and 90 fatal traffic crashes every year, and officers working different shift patterns in a variety of locations across the West Midlands, the force was not always able to offer a consistent level of support for a family.

But the new unit has eight Family Liaison Officers (FLOs) whose sole job it is to provide that assistance and each will have their own cases. They will be part of the Force Collision Investigation unit.

Superintendent Paul Keasey, West Midlands Police head of Traffic, said: "This is a national first. We are leading the way in creating a centre of excellence."

"There are three different elements to the role of the FLO – to help with the investigation, to support the family of the victim and to signpost them to other support services and organisations that may be able to help."

"As well as supporting families, officers will also be able to spend time establishing and developing relationships with local community groups or charities offering support for those who have lost loved ones."

Extra patrols held after rise in crime

CRIME is on the rise in Wordsley with the situation being described as 'disturbing'.

In the past three months, the number of incidents in the town has risen by 17 per cent, prompting extra police patrols.

Burglaries have risen with 10 homes targeted from April to June. There was also break-ins at sheds and garages.

Councillor Derrick Hemingsley said: "There has been some disturbing news about increases in burglaries at houses, sheds and garages in Wordsley and it is very important for the public to report incidents and suspicious activity to the police."

A crime awareness group, Wordsley Street Watch, has been established.

Talk on hall's past, present and future

LORD Cobham will give a talk on Hagley Hall and the ongoing plans to restore and enhance its grounds at a meeting of Bilston Historical Society on October 7 at 7.15pm at Bilston Baptist Church in Prouds Lane.

Hotel room demand at all-time high

DEMAND for hotel rooms in the Black Country has risen to the highest since records began.

Occupancy rates in hotels hit 70 per cent – the best half year since 2011.

According to research from Marketing Birmingham's Regional Observatory, collated by travel research company STR Global, it was four per cent better than January to June in 2014.

Revenue per available room in the Black Country was also up by 12 per cent from £30.46 in 2014 to £34.11 for the first six months of 2015.

Monthly occupancy rates peaked at 74 per cent in March, while May was also a particularly strong month with an eight per cent rise in occupancy and 14 per cent increase in revenue per room.

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership board member Ninder Johal said: "We have long known that the variety and standard of accommodation in the Black Country is outstanding and that our visitor and cultural sector offers something distinctive"

Simon Barratt, general manager at Village Urban Resort Dudley, said: "We have seen a nine per cent occupancy rise versus the previous year for the first half of 2015, which looks set to continue. This is mainly due to gaining a number of significant corporate contracts, along with families taking advantage of the fantastic local attractions during the school holidays. This rise in occupancy has allowed us to continually invest in our property."

A noticeable rise in visitor numbers to the region's major attractions was a key contributory factor to the strong performance figures.

The Black Country Living Museum in Dudley saw its visitor numbers rise by seven per cent between January and June, from 113,761 to 121,594.

Laura Wakelin, director of marketing and communications, said: "Visitors have told us that seeing the museum on TV over the past 12 months, in new programmes such as BBC1's 24 Hours in the Past, has spurred them to make the journey to visit."

It has also been a bright outlook for Dudley Zoo with figures at the Castle Hill attraction up by 1,500 this August, compared to the same period last year.

Hope for 10,000 jobs as enterprise plans revived

STALLED plans for an enterprise zone that would transform Brierley Hill and bring more than 10,000 jobs to the town are back on the table

The Waterfront and Harts Hill areas will be revamped, with Dudley Council and the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership now working together on the proposals.

The initiative was first mooted in 2011 but shelved in favour of sites around Darlaston and Wolverhampton's i54.

A report released ahead of the council's cabinet meeting this week has revealed a fresh bid is being put together to revamp the town – potentially creating 10,600 jobs.

Deputy leader Councillor Judy Foster said the authority was optimistic about the move.

She said: "We're working very hard to attract investment in Dudley borough and this is very welcome but it's still at the early stages."

"We want to transform Brierley Hill, improve and develop it – that's our vision as it's such a strategic centre for the Black Country."

"We want it to punch its weight and this is a really exciting opportunity."

"But it's not just about this enterprise zone, as we've also got the area action plan and plans for the high street."

Incentives

Government-backed enterprise zones can offer a range of incentives for businesses to start up or expand.

The report states: "Waterfront and Harts Hill provide a major opportunity for the borough, the Black Country and indeed the region."

"At the Waterfront, there is some 650,000 sq ft of high quality office accommodation, approximately 40 per cent of which is currently vacant."

"If fully occupied this space would host up to 4,600 new jobs."

"Furthermore, in addition to confirming Brierley Hill as a new strategic centre for the Black Country, the Black Country Joint Core Strategy provides the planning framework for an additional one million sq ft of office space within the area, with the scope to create more than 6,000 new jobs."

The Government launched enterprise zones during April 2012 as part of its long-term economic plan, with benefits for firms including business rate discounts and other incentives to encourage enterprise.

Hospice reaches lottery milestone



Julie Hopkins (left) and Diane Moore (right), of Mary Stevens Hospice, with Jane Lewis from Chapmans Electrical

A HOSPICE is celebrating after making its 1,000th lottery draw – a fundraiser which has brought in £11 million since its inception.

Mary Stevens Hospice has collected a total of £11,714,000 since its first lottery numbers were drawn 19 years ago. To celebrate the milestone, the hospice held two draws, with one lucky supporter winning its 1,000th jackpot while a second won a special draw to mark the occasion.

The annual running costs of the hospice are more than £2.8m, and bosses rely heavily on the generosity of the local community.

Manager Diane Moore said: "The lottery has been a massive success. Members of the community have supported us on a weekly basis, many of them purely as a means of donating an affordable £1 per week to the charity, rather than wanting or expecting to win the £2,000 jackpot."

"Our 1,000th draw is a remarkable achievement and something we are extremely proud to be celebrating."

The 1,000th draw jackpot winner – who walked away with £2,000 – was A Hewitt, from Worthing.

The winner of a 32in TV in the special anniversary draw, donated by Chapmans Electrical, Cradley Heath, was Margaret Marsh from Stourbridge.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Cameron's blindness to needs of provinces

NO doubt David Cameron's unfortunate quip about folk from different parts of Yorkshire hating one another because they had put so many rival bids in for government cash was a casual aside, never intended to offend anybody, and which will probably be quickly forgotten.

It does, though, give an interesting insight into how little understanding the London-centric political class has of provincial Britain.

It seems Mr Cameron was surprised that people in different parts of Yorkshire had different priorities, and wanted money for their own localities rather than cutting a deal among themselves about where the money should go. But Yorkshire is a huge county. Just how would pouring money into the south of the county, which is basically the East Midlands, benefit somebody in the Dales?

It's no different here. While there is a lot of talk about devolution at the moment, it all sounds like anything but. Instead of local councillors looking after their own patches, we are pretty much being told that the only way the West Midlands will get the sort of money that London does is by forming some kind of regional authority. While it might not be called "Greater Birmingham", that is inevitably how Westminster will see it. Last week the West Midlands' new transport plan was announced, which was as predictable as it was depressing. High speed rail and a glitzy new station for Birmingham, and oh, yes, a few bendy buses for Sandwell and Dudley. That will kick-start the Black Country economy, won't it?

London-centred politicians assume that the rest of Britain really wants to be like London, and that fiercely independent towns and cities with very little in common bar an accident of geography, can all be lumped together to form some sort of artificial region.

■ ■ ■

CONGRATULATIONS to Wonderbra tycoon Michelle Mone on her elevation to the House of Lords. But don't you think it's a shame that Lord Sewel was booted out before he ever got the chance to try out her latest lines?

■ ■ ■

WOLVERHAMPTON'S former Netto store looks set to face the bulldozers. The Scandinavian supermarket chain was told to move out in 2007, to make way for the Summer Row scheme which never went ahead, and in 2011 the council spent £50,000 on repairs to the property.

Wulfrunians will no doubt be very pleased that the eyesore building, previously home to the Clarkson and later Rackhams department stores, is now to finally bite the dust.

And eight years after Netto was forced to close its doors, maybe somebody could finally get round to removing all the road signs for the supermarket?



Linda Frazier from West Bromwich meets Jasper Carrott



Chief Executive Toby Lewis at the memorial unveiling



Jasper's wife donated her kidney to their daughter Lucy

Jasper talks from the heart about donation

The unveiling of a memorial to organ donors meant something extra special for Jasper Carrott. **CLARE BUTLER** reports

"THIS monument means that anyone can come at anytime to sit and think about a loved one."

Those were the words of Birmingham comedian Jasper Carrott at the unveiling of City Hospital's memorial area for organ donors.

Jasper spoke to 15 families at the event last Wednesday, explaining how his wife Hazel, who he has been married to for more than four decades, donated an organ to their actress daughter Lucy Davis in 1997.

Lucy underwent a kidney transplant after being diagnosed with kidney failure.

He recalled the day the operation took place, saying: "I remember I was actually doing a show at the NEC in Birmingham when the operation was taking place. It was an emotional and traumatic time.

"My wife donated her kidney to my daughter and I'm pleased to say that she has been very healthy since.

Successful

"She has followed to the letter what doctors have told her to do in order to look after it, and it has meant she has had a life and incredible career.

"She is a glowing example of having a successful transplant, and although my experience may not have been as dramatic as what no doubt a lot of you have been through here today - I can relate."

Hospital bosses and families were touched by Jasper's personal recollection, yet it wasn't long before he got the crowds laughing with a touch of humour too.

"Whenever my daughter was a little more irritable after the transplant we would say it was the transplant causing the menopause," he joked. Lucy, now aged 42, has since gone on to star in notable film and TV roles including



Veteran comedian and television personality, Jasper Carrott, unveils a memorial at City Hospital, Birmingham, in honour of those who donated organs enabling others to live

The Office and zombie comedy Shaun of the Dead.

The ceremony saw a heart-shaped stone monument, plaque and seated reflection area revealed in honour of the organ donors and their families.

During National Transplant Week, last week, family members were keen to re-iterate the importance of speaking to loved ones about organ donation.

Christine Rock, from West Bromwich, who lost her husband, John in 2011 at the age of 69 spoke of how she knew her family had to fulfil his wishes.

She said: "Four years ago my husband had a stroke and was taken into hospital but sadly didn't pull through.

"He always carried a donor card with him, so although it was a trying time for us and especially our daughter, we were always aware

of his wishes and wanted to fulfil them.

"His heart tissue went on to save five neonatal babies.

"To be able to come here today and see so many families who were in a similar position to us has been lovely. Jasper was incredibly touching and down to earth too."

Following his speech, 70-year-old Jasper took time to speak to each family, before posing for pictures beside the monument, where family members also placed flowers.

Inscribed on the stone were the words 'A gift of life' with the bench quote reading 'Words are not always necessary - comfort comes from the meeting of hearts.'

Dr John Bleasdale, clinical lead for organ donation at the hospital, said: "This monument celebrates the people who said 'I do' to organ donation. We are eternally grateful to them and their families and this can be a place



Eathan Rock-Sawyer aged eight and his gran Christine Rock from West Bromwich

for them to sit, reflect and contemplate as well as a being a mark of remembrance.

"We want to encourage better communication between families about speaking about organ donation. I am sure that is it is discussed more, then families will be more open to saying yes."

The National Transplant Week campaign was encouraging people to say 'I do' to organ donation. Donors can make the decision to declare donation after their death or by giving a living donation by choosing to donate a kidney, a small section of liver or discarded bone from a hip or knee replacement.

Every year across the country around a thousand people die waiting for a transplant.

However, only four per cent of people regularly give blood and only a third have joined the organ donor register. For more information visit www.organdonation.nhs.uk

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



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Let's deal with root cause of the problem

I'M in no doubt that my comments in this letter will cause horror, disgust and offence amongst the more hysterical of your readership.

And the hysteria, it seems, has even infected our Prime Minister and affected his previously sound judgement on this matter.

In little over 24 hours he switched from being someone who didn't think that allowing more refugees and asylum seekers into this country was the solution to the world's migrant crisis problem, to someone who now obviously does!

The reason for his sudden conversion, of course, was the image of a child's body washed up on a beach, the showing of which on the front pages of some newspapers probably having more to do with selling said newspapers than any sympathetic feelings on the part of their editors.

The image was sad and shocking, but some things need to be said, no matter how upsetting and heartless they may sound to those who are prepared to let their hearts overrule their heads.

So far this year hundreds of men, women, children and babies have

drown making the same journey that this child and his brother, mother and father were attempting and many bodies have never been found.

It doesn't make this child's death any less tragic, of course, but please let's keep a sense of perspective. It still doesn't alter the fact, as originally stated by David Cameron, that allowing thousands more of them into this country is not dealing with the root causes of the problem.

R A SARGEANT
Dudley

Promote care, not help to die

IS this choice? I see Rob Marris feebly defends his Assisted Dying Bill by saying he is not promoting death but promoting choice.

Really? What is the choice? To be told that you are terminally ill with a short life expectantly and being aware of the financial constraints of an over-stretched NHS and being aware of the distress family and friends are going through seeing a loved one with a terminal illness, the logical decision is easy to make.

But at a person's most vulnerable time should they really have to face that dilemma? In a civilised society shouldn't we support and care for them rather than assisting them into a premature death?

Many terminally ill patients do live quality lives well beyond expectation.

This is not choice, this is fait accompli!

T LUXTON
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
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EMAIL

dudley.chron@
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Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't drone on about jihadi deaths

WE hear that a drone strike has killed a British jihadi. Inevitably, the British bleeding heart industry gears itself up to ask questions. Should we be carrying out this kind of attack? Is it a judicial killing? Are we in breach of International law? Should there be a judicial inquiry?

It appears that it's okay to use air strikes against ISIS and to kill Jihadis in a generalised way but let's not pick on perhaps the most dangerous of their number who can cause the UK the greatest harm.

We are told that Muslims in South Wales are against ISIS but that they are not happy at some bloodthirsty fighter being targeted like this.

Any time now, I dare say, we will have the Archbishop's bishops telling us that all men are our brothers. It's okay to endanger the lives of our brave RAF but with a drone, it's just not a level playing field. So how do these people think we should expunge the jihadi Johns of this world? The implication is that somehow we arrest them and bring them back for trial. Good luck with that one.

I am in total awe at the professionalism shown by those carrying out of this project.

A M ETHERIDGE
Sedgley

You have to know heartbreak

RE Assisted dying. Mr Rob Marris gets my full support for his bill.

Have the religious leaders not wanting this ever sat with their loved ones longing for their life to end?

I visited my husband in hospital on a Saturday night in 2009. On my visit my husband asked me to promise if he came out of hospital again, this was his fourth time that year, if I would go with him to Switzerland to end his life. Sadly on the Wednesday he got his wish and passed away.

Heartbreaking and a very sad time but would have been more heart-breaking if we had travelled to Switzerland knowing we wouldn't be bringing him back.

If assisted dying bill had been passed then, I could have brought him back to die in his own home. If you haven't been through this you really don't know what it's like and how heart-breaking it is.

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Sad death of Betty is announced

Quarry Bank E TWG

CHAIRMAN Mrs Wright welcomed 29 members and one visitor to the August meeting. It was with sadness that she told of the death of long-standing member Betty Johnson.

Betty was an enthusiastic member of the guild, willing to participate in all activities, always cheerful and helpful.

Betty's death was sudden and unexpected after a very short illness. She will be very much missed by everyone.

The meeting then proceeded as usual.

Social Secretary Mrs Writtle said the proposed visit to the National Memorial Arboretum had been cancelled due to lack of support. Names were taken of members wishing to participate in the Harvest Lunch and the date and venue of the Christmas Dinner was announced. It will be on Tuesday December 1 at Vesuvio Restaurant, Stourbridge.

Mrs Margaret Bunn gave information on arts and crafts meeting to be held at Norton Community Centre.

A happy occasion in spite of closure

Garden birds theme of talk

Wall Heath Horticultural Guild

THE Guild held their usual monthly meeting at Wall Heath Community Centre in Enville Road on Tuesday, September 1.

As usual the meeting was friendly and vibrant with an excellent speaker for the occasion Mr David Tidswell who gave a very informative and exciting talk on garden birds in autumn and winter.

He gave advice on how best to feed them and attract them to our gardens. Most interestingly he spoke on the length of life which they might have, which we do all wonder about, considering that they are constantly pursued by predators.

He also spoke of diminishing habitats for them.

We could all do a little to help by encouraging them to our gardens with good food which he advised on.

Chairman Amanda Ridney updated members about the Wall Heath Show.

The guild is increasing in number due to the excellent quality of speakers engaged for meetings during the year, an annual day trip, very pleasant supper evenings and great ideas to share and enjoy. Visitors are welcome.

The Black Country Society

THE June meeting at St Mary's Church Hall was the last one of the Kingswinford branch, which has been unable to fill the roles of chairman, treasurer and secretary.

Members and friends present included chairman of the main society James Morgan. President Stan Hill was not well enough to attend, and Dave Galley, president of the main society was unable to attend.

Chairman Joan White and treasurer Linda Button have held offices for more than 30 years and secretary Alison Jones wished to resign from this meeting.

Linda thanked the chairman for her loyalty and support and presented her with a Black Country book by Michael Pearson.

The financial statement from Linda said attendance had fallen and entrance fees did not cover fees for speakers. There are also many local societies using the same speakers with the same subjects, thus reducing numbers, so it was decided to close the branch.

An excellent performance of the Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir followed, with Conductor Philippa Brettell and pianist Cynthia Partridge.

A buffet supper with wine followed to which choir members were invited. This all helped to make the last meeting a happy occasion.

Speaker Ken steps into the breach

THE last two meetings of Hawne TG before the summer break were quite hectic.

The programme for both meetings had to be changed. At the June meeting the speaker was changed at very short notice.

Ken Smith from the Friends of Haden House stepped into the breach. Ably assisted by his wife, he talked

Hawne TG

about the wonderful work done by the Friends of Haden Hill park and of some of the problems they have encountered.

Guild secretary Sandra Matchett, who carried the West Midlands banner and was the West Midlands Federation

delegate at the recent National AGM at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow, gave her report on the meeting. She said it was an honour to carry the banner.

In July the committee surprised the members with a strawberry, cream and scone tea party. This was followed by fun, games and songs, starting with a quiz and followed by Irish bingo.

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Anniversary events at Georgian church



Ready to celebrate 250 years of the village church — Reverend Charmaine Host is Vicar of St Michael's at Himley

GENERATIONS of families have marked birth, marriages and deaths at village church near Dudley. Now parishioners at St Michael's and All Angels Church in Himley are preparing to mark 250 years of worship at the church.

September 28 marks the anniversary of the church being dedicated, after a move from the grounds of Himley Hall.

Reverend Charmaine Host became vicar of St Michael's, along with its second parish St John's, in Swindon, in February. She said: "It is a lovely church, we have regular members who come every week."

"A few years ago Wolverhampton Archaeological Group

discovered that there was originally a church in the grounds of Himley Hall, but the Earl of Dudley wanted to re-landscape the area, so this church was moved outside the village instead. The area is steeped in history."

The medieval church was demolished in 1764 and replaced the following year. Originally it had a three-decker pulpit and an area reserved for the Dudley family.

There will be an open day on September 26 and service of thanksgiving the following day, plus a folk concert at Himley Cricket Club on October 9. See facebook.com/st-michaelshimley

Home safety for elderly

A SERVICE aimed at keeping older people safe in their homes will be out and about in Sedgley later this month.

The Living Well, Feeling Safe scheme provides advice and help for elderly and vulnerable people.

The partnership is made up of Dudley Council, Age UK, West Midlands Police, Victim Support, West Midlands Fire Service and other agencies.

Staff from the service will be visiting properties in and around Sedgley for three days from September 23 to 25. A drop in information day will also be held at The Beacon Centre in Wolverhampton Road, from 10am until 3pm on Friday, September 25.

Councillor Dave Branwood, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "The Living Well, Feeling Safe service is ideal for any older or vulnerable person, or couple, who are feeling isolated

or in need of extra support at home, or for people who are simply concerned about safety or security in the home.

"I'd encourage Sedgley residents to take up the offer of a free home assessment, but it's important to stress that this service is available to people across Dudley borough, so if you know anyone who could benefit, then please contact the service directly."

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Thousands more sign up to be organ donors



Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho with Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health, and Mayoress Jayne Waltho

THE number of people signed up to the organ donor register in Dudley has risen.

In January 2013 there were 60,648 people signed up but by January this year it had risen to 68,951 — a 14 per cent improvement.

Two years ago Dudley Council bosses signed a formal agreement to encourage staff and borough residents to think about blood and organ donation. The landmark agreement was made with the NHS Blood and Transplant authority.

The Mayor of Dudley has now pledged to encourage people to think about blood and organ donation as part of his civic year and is calling on people to support National Transplant Week. Councillor Steve Waltho said: "I'm delighted that since we made the pledge to help promote the work of the blood and organ transplant team that the number of people who have signed up to the organ donor register in Dudley borough has increased."

"National Transplant Week is an ideal time to think about how people can save lives by signing up to the register and get even more people involved."

He added: "It really is a matter of life and death to the people who need new organs or blood."

The national campaign is focussing on '7 Days to Say I Do', which aims to encourage people to discuss their decision about organ donation with those closest to them.

Donors can make the decision to declare donation after their death or by giving a living donation by choosing to donate a kidney, a small section of liver or discarded bone from a hip or knee replacement.

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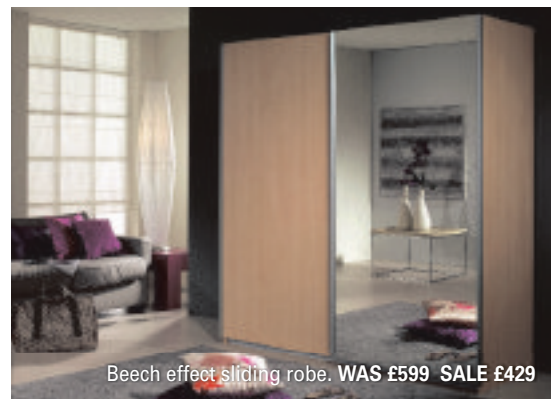
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Free schools pledge to make positive impact

TWO NEW free schools have opened their classroom doors to pupils in Wolverhampton.

The start of the new term marked the opening of both The British Sikh School, at the former Parkfields School site, and Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre, in Upper Villiers Street.

Each has pledged to make a positive impact in the city and allow youngsters to get the most out of their school years.

At the opening day for The British Sikh School, 81 pupils got to see their new surroundings, meet their classmates and teachers and learn more about what lies ahead for them.

The school is run according to Sikh values and principles rather than the Sikh faith and is welcoming to children of any religion. Principal Raminder Vig believes it will boost the standard of education across the city.

Inspire

The school's main hall contains pictures of social activists such as Rosa Parks, William Wilberforce, Bangat Puran Singh and Emmeline Pankhurst in an effort to inspire the children.

Mr Vig said: "This vision has been four years in the making.

"It has now come to fruition, which is a great achievement for us and it is something people in Wolverhampton should be proud of.

"We want our pupils to be able to stand on their own two feet and proudly say they went to The British Sikh School."

The British Sikh School is also offering a wide variety of sporting opportunities to pupils. Mr Vig is confident that the opportunity to take part in fencing and archery classes will be a hit with pupils and has set his sights



Principal Raminder Singh Vig, at The British Sikh School, Wolverhampton



Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre principal Ben Gamble

high for what the school can achieve in the world of sport.

Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre (WVTC) is the first 16-18 free school in the country to offer education and vocational training to special educational needs students.

It offers courses directly linked to getting its pupils into work or higher education, including classes on paint-

ing and decorating, carpentry, care and beauty.

Principal Ben Gamble said: "We are offering a unique service. Our entire ethos is based around our students and getting them to achieve more than they think is possible.

"We believe with the team of staff we have here, we can get these children to achieve."

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Now new leader can get to work



REJOICE – the Labour leadership contest is over. Now, can we get on with the business of politics?

It has been four long months since the morning after the General Election, when a forlorn-looking Ed Miliband took responsibility for leading his party to its worst result since 1987 and bid a dignified retreat to the backbenches.

Since then Milifandom gave way to (Jeremy) Corbynmania and the three other contenders for the Labour leadership all promised a bold, new direction while doing their best to conveniently ignore their own high profile positions in the run up to their party's crushing result.

Pastime

It was difficult to take any of them seriously given that none of them ever managed to persuade Ed Miliband to change tactics and not snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

The last four months were about Labour talking almost exclusively to and about itself. A favourite pastime for many was branding anyone who supported a rival candidate a 'Tory'. "You like Liz Kendall? You're a Blairite and therefore a Tory."

"Oh, you prefer Jeremy Corbyn? Well that's the candidate the Tories want so you must be a Tory." And so on.

At least watching Labour leadership voters, whether full members or the



Ed Miliband in Brierley Hill

£3 registered supporters, argue with each other online has had an air of authenticity to it, of passion and of a frank exchange of ideas.

Almost every event during the General Election was stage-managed and choreographed to within an inch of its life.

People put in front of the shadow cabinet seemed to have been vetted so much they must have felt like wounded animals hoping not to be put down.

The Tories were no better, of course, but I do wonder how much more Ed Miliband could have achieved had he not spent the afternoon of the last Sunday before polling day in a cafe in Brierley Hill especially hired for the occasion and surrounded by Labour members and campaigners.



New Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn

He told everyone present how there were only hours left to win the election, having made them take the best part of two hours out of their day to wait for and listen to him tell them how the clock was ticking.

Did no-one think it might have been better to actually talk to the voters, the ones who they wanted to put them into power?

Now Labour's new leader Corbyn can get to work.

There are four years and eight months until the next General Election.

And instead of just debating with each other about who within the party can win it, it might be worth listening to what the voters want and then working out how to deliver it. They've had stranger policies than that.

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Celebrating unity in the community

DUDLEY will be celebrating together at this month's Dudley Community Day on Saturday in the town centre.

There will be an opening speech from Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho at noon on Stone Street and additional speeches from community, faith and business leaders plus the Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson.

Stone Street square will be hosting live music with performances by Effunko, Dead Happy, Bloco Louco, Target by Numbers and Archive. There will also be performances by NN Dance & Cheer, a church choir and two drumming performances by CFED Drummers and Azaad Dhol Group.

The event, from 10am to 4pm, will celebrate the town's diverse communities.

From Amazon to the zoo

DUDLEY Zoo has set up a wish list on web store Amazon's UK homepage for supporters who want to help the Castle Hill attraction.

The wish list offers a choice of practical items the zoo needs and they can then be purchased online and delivered direct to the zoo. Items start around £1 and people can help their favourite kinds of animal. Searching for Dudley Zoo in the wish list section on Amazon's UK homepage.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Multi-storey car park plan is axed due to rising costs

LONG-AWAITED plans for a multi-storey car park in Dudley town centre have been scrapped as estimated costs hit £4 million.

Dudley Council had earmarked land in Tower Street for the development, which would have provided 250 spaces.

It followed calls from traders for more parking in the town centre for shoppers. But the council has now decided not to go ahead with the scheme as the potential costs have soared.

It was originally thought the multi-storey car park could be built for around £2.5m, however, because of it being in conservation area, the cost increased to between £3m and £4m.

Bosses are now looking at whether they can create a 'surface level' car park in the town centre - although it's expected it would have fewer spaces.

Historic

The decision not to press ahead with the multi-storey also followed discussions with conservation experts at Historic England, which champions the country's heritage.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "We have been doing some detailed work on proposals for a car park in Tower Street to help

by Heather Large

bring in more shoppers to Dudley as part of our wider regeneration work in the heart of the town.

"As with all projects of this nature we must assess the value of the money and, in this instance, the sensitivity of the location in a conservation area meant the business model for the car park could not be justified.

"We are now exploring a surface level car park which will still provide valuable spaces in the heart of the town centre but at a significantly reduced cost.

"The cost of the scheme would have been in the region of £3m to £4m."

Roger Scott, a town trader of 20 years, said: "A ground level car park is less than satisfactory, it falls far short of what the town needs, but at least it's better than nothing."



Front, Mayor and Mayoress Steve and Jayne Waltho with centre manager Jennifer Gregory

Farewell for supporters of network

A COMMUNITY centre closing after more than 25 years was given a send-off to remember by more than 200 people.

St Thomas's Community Network, in Kates Hill, will shut its doors for the final time on September 30 after it lost grant aid from cash-strapped Dudley Council.

Staff were determined to give the centre a proper send-off and invited former staff and users to attend a party at the venue in Beechwood Road on Friday.

Those attending were asked to sign a book of memories, signed by Prince Charles and former Prime Minister Gordon Brown on visits to the centre.

Dudley's Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho, chairman of the board of trustees, said: "It was a very emotional event. Staff knew it would be very difficult to get through but they were determined to stage an event to remember."

Funnyman Milton is on his way

COMIC Milton Jones will be bringing his new show to Dudley town centre on Friday, October 2.

Dudley Town Hall will host his show Milton Jones and the Temple of Daft.

He is known for his loud shirts and messed up hair and his TV appearances on Mock the Week and Live at the Apollo.

His show will see be a heady mixture of surreal one-liners and bizarre story telling as the 51-year-old stand-up and Radio 4 favourite also introduces his explorer uncle Sir Randolph Digby Jones.

He won the Perrier comedy award for best newcomer in 1996 and has become a regular at the country's top comedy venues, including The Comedy Store in London.

Tickets for the show, at 8pm, cost £24. Call the box office on (01384) 812812.

Invitation to a jobs fair

UNEMPLOYED people from the Kates Hill area of Dudley area being invited to a local jobs fair today (Thu).

Dudley Council's adult and community learning team is holding the event in St John's Parish Hall, St John's Road, from 10am to 3pm.

People looking for work need to bring along a CV. They will be able to find out about full and part-time posts and work experience placements locally.

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Demands for tougher action against thoughtless motorists

RESIDENTS are demanding tougher enforcement measures on roads in Lower Gornal, claiming inconsiderate drivers are putting lives at risk.

They say motorists are ignoring double-yellow lines and parking their cars where they cause a problem.

Residents also claim parking enforcement in the area is 'nearly non-existent' and are calling for patrols to be stepped up. Roads named as trouble spots for parking include Roberts Street and Red Hall Road. There are schools on both roads.

Work starts on college's £3m arts building

WORK has begun on a £3 million performing arts centre at Halesowen College. It will provide much-needed teaching rooms and rehearsal space.

Plans were drawn up for the building because the college has been struggling to provide enough space for the growing number of students taking performing arts courses. Some have to travel off campus to use facilities at Benjamins, a function hall in the town centre.

Bosses want to cut down costs for both students and the college by providing facilities on the Whittingham Road campus. The centre is the latest stage of the college's transformation which has seen more than £20m invested in updating facilities.

Principal Keith Bate has said the new base would provide 'bespoke accommodation' for the courses.

The college has also announced that Prospect Coaches had been awarded a multi-million pound contract to provide free transport for students.

Councillor Dave Branwood said the problems in Lower Gornal had been reported at a recent community forum.

"Residents complained cars were parked illegally at various locations across the village," he said. "These included outside Red Hall School and Roberts Primary School.

There were also other hotspots where vehicles were parked dangerously close to junctions or even across pavements.

Accidents

"These are just accidents waiting to happen. It is only a matter of time before something serious happens. Concerns were raised that enforcement of illegal parking was virtually non-existent and people want an explanation."

Councillor Branwood said the head of traffic enforcement at Dudley Council had been asked to attend the next meeting of the forum.

"Residents in Gornal are having to put up with problems caused by illegal parking," he added. "Outside the schools it is like a free-for-all and with children crossing the road sooner or later someone will get hurt."

Dudley Council's environment boss, Councillor Hilary Bills said illegal parking around schools was something regularly tackled through the enforcement team.

Roadworks hit by a hole load of problems



Fenced off — the mine working which opened up overnight forcing the closure of the road in Lower Gornal

WORKERS resurfacing a road received a shock after a hole opened up in the carriageway, following the collapse of a mine working.

Residents in Bull Street, Lower Gornal, said they had seen one of the machines become stuck in the opening following the collapse on Sunday.

The road had already been sealed off to traffic for the roadworks and the closure remained for repairs to take place.

Workers were on site early Monday morning to fill up the cavity, which

was between 6ft to 9ft deep with a diameter of more than 2ft.

The section of road was due to be resurfaced and reopened to traffic at 6am Tuesday.

Dudley Council confirmed the hole had been caused by the collapse of a small area of mine working.

Resident Gillian Brown said people living along the road had been left shocked by what happened.

"Roadworks have been taking place along the road for the past four weeks, mainly at weekends," she said.

"I have to say the council has been very good and came around to the houses to answer any questions and ease our fears a little.

"You do tend to worry when something like this happens.

"I don't think any of the residents around here knew there were any mine workings. We have lived here for 25 years and it has never been mentioned."

Dudley Council spokesman Julie Warrilow said: "The work to fill in the hole has gone well."

Rock star is returning as top composer

THE former singer with Black Country rock band Pop Will Eat Itself, Clint Mansell, is planning a concert in Birmingham that highlights his second career as one of Hollywood's leading composers.

PWEI formed in Stourbridge in 1986 and split ten years later after 11 top 40 hit singles including 'Touched By The Hand Of Ciccolina', 'X Y And Zee' and 'Get The Girl! Kill The Bad-dies!'

Mansell went on to work on movie soundtracks and formed a collaboration with director Darren Aronofsky, creating the scores for 'Black Swan', 'Requiem For A Dream', 'The Fountain', 'The Wrestler', 'Noah' and 'Pi'.

Pianist

Most recently he completed the score for Ben Wheatley's 'High Rise', which is due for release next year starring Tom Hiddleston, Jeremy Irons, Sienna Miller, Luke Evans and Elisabeth Moss.

The concert at Symphony Hall on March 23, first of four UK dates, will see Mansell perform music from his scores alongside his own band (Mike Fonte, Clint Walsh and Eric Gardner) plus pianist Carly Paradis and Sonus Quartet. He has entitled the show 'Uneasy Listening'. Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday), priced at £22.50 or £27.50.

Leona has date at the Symphony Hall

MILLION-SELLING singer Leona Lewis has announced a Birmingham date as part of her first UK tour in three years.

The 30-year-old singer who won The X Factor in 2006 has gone on to release five albums including this year's 'I Am'.

She will be in concert at the Symphony Hall on February 28.

Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday) at 10am.

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Heroin is blamed as more are dying from drug abuse

Cadets will show skills at open day

DUDLEY Army Cadets will host an open day today (Thu) in a bid to attract new recruits.

The organisation is on the lookout for more cadets and adult instructors but anyone is welcome to attend the event at the Army Reserve Centres at Vicar Street between 7pm and 9pm.

Visitors to the open day can have a go at drill, try out mess tin cooking, learn basic camouflage skills and construct a 'basha' for shelter.

Colonel Richard Logan, Commandant, Staffordshire and West Midlands North Sector ACF, said: "Although the Army Cadets is sponsored by the Army it's a youth organisation run by volunteers, men and women from all sorts of backgrounds.

"We aim to help young people to develop independence, confidence and the ability to step up to any challenge. We inspire young people to be good citizens and challenge them to aim high and go further in life, whatever their career plans. We're keen to recruit more cadets and adult instructors but our open day is for everyone so I'd like to encourage local people to come along."

ability and purity of heroin is clearly having an impact in England.

"Fewer people are using heroin but the harms are increasingly concentrated among older, more vulnerable users and those not recently in touch with their local drug treatment services.

"Reassuringly, overall drug use has also declined and treatment services have helped many people to recover but these figures show the need for an enhanced effort."

Dudley Council health chief Councillor Rachel Harris said: "Any death is a tragedy for the family and friends of the bereaved.

"We have very good integrated treatment services in Dudley that support people to recover from drug misuse and we continue to work across all the services to provide the best possible outcomes for vulnerable people."

The council also insisted the increase in Dudley is 'not significant' and is explained by 'natural variation'.

Report by Adam Burling

in Wolverhampton it went from 14 in the first two periods, to 26. Sandwell was the only area where the number actually fell, with 20 drug-related deaths from 2006 to 2008, compared to 17 in 2012 to 2014.

Two people in South Staffordshire died in each of the first two periods, compared to four from 2012 to 2014. Wyre Forest's total went from seven, to five, to eight.

In England there was a 17 per cent rise in the drug misuse mortality rate in 2014, to 39.7 per million population.

And men were more than two and a half times more likely to die from drug misuse than women, with 58 and 21 deaths per million of population for males and females respectively.

Rosanna O'Connor, director of Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco at Public Health England said the figures were of 'great concern'.

She added: "The increased global avail-

THE number of people dying from drug abuse is rocketing across the West Midlands, new figures show.

From 2009 to 2011 there were 89 deaths in the Black Country, Stafford, Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire and Wyre Forest. But this rose to 134 between 2012 and 2014.

Across England and Wales there were 3,346 drug poisoning deaths during that period, the highest since comparable records began in 1993.

Health bosses admit there is a growing problem. Experts say it is easier than ever to buy heroin, which is also purer and therefore more dangerous.

In Dudley, 24 deaths were classed as being related to drugs misuse from 2006 to 2008, and this fell to 19 between 2009 and 2011 before rising again to 33 from 2012 to 2014.

The number rose from 14, to 15 to 25 across the three periods in Walsall, and

Flower power wins the day in Halesowen



Winners — Halesowen in Bloom Chairman Eve O'Connor, front, with Amanda Hodgetts and Steve Fitzpatrick. FLOWER power has won the day in Halesowen after the town scooped a gold award in the annual Heart of England In Bloom competition.

Organisers and volunteers pulled everything out the grow bag to ensure the win, after being only four per cent off the prestigious gilt last year. Shop fronts, gardens and buildings have all been transformed by colourful floral creations.

It was announced that Halesowen had won gold in the Urban judging category last week. Eve O'Connor, chairman of Halesowen in Bloom, said: "We are all blooming over the moon. I couldn't be more delighted as our hard work has really paid off. On our Facebook page we have had so many positive comments and likes and shares. The feedback has overwhelmed us.

"We have now got to maintain our high standards for next year, as there are always areas of improvement."

Mrs O'Connor was also awarded a Special Merit Award.

Village's beer festival gears up for biggest yet

THE success of a Black Country village's beer festival has led to organisers stepping up the amount of ale available this year.

The third annual Sedgley Real Ale Beer Festival is being held at the Jubilee Scout Hall, off Ladies Walk, on September 25 and 26.

Last year festival goers downed 2,000 pints in 17 hours and organisers have ordered even more beers for this year. Chairman Ian Foster said: "We are very excited with the amount interest in the beer festival. It is really satisfying tasting beers for good causes, and with so many local people turning up, everyone seems certain to meet old friends."

The money raised will benefit 1st Sedgley Scout Group, the BBC's Children in Need appeal and Cystic Fibrosis Trust. The scouts used their share of the proceeds last year to complete work on a log cabin and new toilets at its headquarters.

The landlords of the Horse and Jockey pub at Woodcross, will be on hand to offer expert advice and recommendations.

The festival, featuring lots of musical entertainment, will run from 5pm to 11pm on the Friday and noon to 11pm on the Saturday with more than 30 real ales. The entrance fee of £10 includes drinks tokens and a souvenir glass.

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Lee Stokes, aged four, with mother Michelle, sister Charlie and brothers Ryan and Blake



Mascot Poppet and fairies Julie Potts from Penn and Clare Gee of Compton



Arran Bawa, left, with father and Promise Dreams trustee Suresh finish the walk

Walk is stuff of dreams

AROUND 1,000 people walked from Dudley to Wolverhampton to fund once-in-a-lifetime experiences for seriously and terminally ill children.

The second annual Walk for Dreams proved a success on Sunday with thousands of pounds generated for Wolverhampton-based charity Promise Dreams.

Hundreds gathered at Himley Park in the morning and were led through a warm-up by Aaron Bower from Chris Jewkes Fitness.

Walkers gathered at the start line took selfies

with harry mascot Poppet while Signal Radio entertained the crowds.

Then they set off on the nine-mile hike through Wombourne, along Penn Road into Wolverhampton to finish at Dunstall Park racecourse.

The walk was a non-competitive stroll suitable for friends and families and many took the opportunity to dress up including duo Clare Gee, 33 from Compton, and Julie Potts, aged 38 from Penn, who went along as fairies.

"It's a great cause and we have had a lot of sponsors so we thought we would have some fun with it," said Clare.

Meanwhile, the event was a chance for families

who have benefitted from the charity's work to say thank you.

Promise Dreams provided a sensory room for four-year-old Lee Stokes, from Bilston, who suffers from epilepsy. The youngster brought an army of 28 supporters with him to complete the walk. His mother Michelle McDonnell, 35, said: "We just want to give something back so other little children in Lee's situation benefit as well."

Promise Dreams launched their walk last year, raising £30,000, after being the beneficiaries of similar events in previous years. It is hoped a similar amount will be generated from this year's fundraiser.



Going loco for the Promise Dreams walk is Dawn Williams from Albrighton

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Bollards have got to go, says councillor

A ROW of bollards installed without warning along a pavement in Gornal is sparking traffic chaos at busy times, it is claimed.

The measures have been introduced in Louise Street.

Residents say the bollards have been placed at the edge of the pavement on the opposite side of the road to parking bays outside shops. And the road is now so narrow if a bus, or other large vehicle, is coming the other way has no option but to reverse. People say this is causing chaos along the route at busy times.

Councillor Dave Branwood, ward councillor for Gornal, said he had been told the bollards had been put

in place to prevent drivers from mounting the pavement. But while the measures might have solved that problem it had created a bigger one.

Now he is calling on Dudley Council to remove the bollards.

Cabinet member for environmental services, Councillor Hilary Bills said: "In response to concerns about pedestrian safety on Louise Street, and following consultation with nearby businesses, six bollards were put in place to stop vehicles illegally driving on the pavement. We have no plans to remove them.

"We will, however, be happy to speak to ward councillors about their concerns."



Councillor Dave Branwood is calling on Dudley Council to remove the bollards along Louise Street

Recruits needed to hear school appeals

DUDLEY Council's education appeals panel is recruiting people to hear and determine appeals for school admissions and exclusion reviews.

The panel is independent and made up of volunteers. It has been set to hear and decide on appeals from parents who have lost out of their preferred primary and secondary school place.

Panelists occasionally deal with reviews of governing body decisions to exclude pupils from schools.

Appropriate training will be provided for all new members before hearing any cases.

Meetings are held during weekday mornings and afternoons mostly at Saltwells Education Centre, Bowling Green Road, Netherton and sometimes at the Council House in Dudley.

For further information about joining an education appeals panel contact Richard Sanders on 01384 815236.

Weddings fraudster is told to pay back just £1

A BUSINESSWOMAN who cheated brides out of more than £122,000 by spending their money on gambling sites and a trip to Disney World will only have to pay back £1.

Around 100 couples were 'left high and dry' by Sarah Cawthorne and her A Little Bit of Bling business, which had promised to provide glitzy finishing touches to their big day.

She was jailed for 12 months for fraudulent trading at Wolverhampton Crown Court in April.

It is believed at least 100 brides-to-be throughout the UK were defrauded of more than £30,000 between July 2012 and September 2013.

But since then, investigations by Dudley Trading Standards have revealed that Cawthorne, of Hickmerelands Lane, Sedgley, actually gained £122,434 in total from her criminal actions, as further victims have been identified.

The mother-of-two claimed to have been suffering from a gambling addiction at the time of the offence. She served part of that sentence in prison before being released on licence and now wears an electronic tag.

Cawthorne, aged 32, appeared at the court last week for a hearing under the Proceeds of Crime Act. That aims to to claw back money from assets belonging to criminals.

Nominal

But Ms Emma Brotherhood, prosecuting, revealed that an agreement had been struck between Dudley Council and Cawthorne.

"The defendant has no assets and a nominal order for £1 is sought," Ms Brotherhood said.

Judge John Walsh replied: "If there is no realisation of assets then £1 must be paid within 28 days or one day in lieu of custody."

Cawthorne was supposed to have decorated couple's venues.

One of her victims, Sarah Bradley, 33, of Wordsley, found out the morning of



Sarch Cawthorne: tagged

her wedding in September 2013 that Cawthorne was not going to deliver the goods she had ordered and paid for.

Mrs Broadley said: "It's absolutely disgusting that she is only paying back £1 and has only spent a few months in jail.

"What about the brides like me who didn't have insurance and who were left in the lurch.

"She didn't turn up for my wedding and I had to pay out a second time three hours before the ceremony.

"I never even got an apology from her. She got what she deserved."

Another victim, Jade Craddock, 33, of Hall Green, Birmingham, lost £1,000. She said: "It's just ridiculous that she's only had to pay £1 back. But everyone in the area knows what she has done and you can't put a price on that."

Dudley Council said that under the court order Cawthorne will be required to pay more money if she acquires assets in the future.

Police act in Gornal

GROUPS of youths have been causing a problem with anti-social behaviour in Gornal, prompting extra patrols by police.

Officers have already taken action with two youths each having been given written warnings following trouble that took place in The Arcade, Pale Street and Rock Street areas.

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The town hall packed for the return of the Red Lemon Electric Blues Band



Adrian Chiles and Suzi Perry join their former band mates at the reunion gig in Stourbridge



The brass section Bryan Corbett and Paul Roberts on stage on Friday night



The band's singer and founder Jim Merris in action on Friday night



The band's former manager and gig organiser Tony Perry from Finchfield

Stars bring Lemon aid

A BLACK Country rhythm and blues band rolled the years at a sell-out anniversary gig with two famous former members joining them on stage at Stourbridge Town Hall.

The Red Lemon Electric Blues Band were greeted with cheers as they took to the stage for their 30th anniversary gig, one of two over the weekend. They were introduced on Friday night by TV sports presenters Suzi Perry and Adrian Chiles.

Suzi used to appear as a dancer on stage with

the Red Lemons, who her father, Tony, used to manage. Adrian, from Hagley, featured as a bass player in an early line-up of the group.

Adrian said: "I used to play very badly and I was due to perform with the group on stage at the gig. Unfortunately I was out out of the country so missed the rehearsal. I've decided, probably to everyone's relief, to limit myself to introducing the band along with Suzi."

Suzi said: "I have done a lot of things but some of the best times of my life have been with the band. When I drove into Stourbridge for the gig I got the same old feeling of excitement. It seemed like no time had passed at all."

Frontman and founder Jim Merris, 51, of Quarry Bank, said: "There has been a real buzz. Before the show I had to pop back home just to get my head together for a few minutes. It has been wonderful and I was delighted Suzi and Adrian could be with us."

The group were formed in 1985 after Jim was inspired by the hit movie The Blues Brothers starring Dan Ackroyd and John Belushi, which featured music from a host of soul, blues and jazz legends.

The band were regulars on the local gig scene in the 1980s and 90s, and supported rock 'n' roll great Chuck Berry on tour.



Saxophonist Rob Hughes lets rip as the soul band hit their stride

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From song to survival at popular game fair



Thousands attend the popular Midland Game Fair over two days at Weston Park to enjoy country pursuits and rural life

ONE of the highlights of the year for rural life and country sports enthusiasts returns to Weston Park this weekend.

The grounds of the stately home, between Cannock and Telford, hosts the Midland Game Fair on Saturday and Sunday.

The event attracts thousands of visitors, ranging from seasoned shots to budding dog handlers and others eager to try out country pursuits.

The daring Devil's Horsemen will join CJ's Birds of Prey and the Shadow Quest Dog Display team among the family favourite events in the fair's main arena.

Again the vast array of stalls will be themed, including Gunmaker's Row, Airgun Expo, Gamekeeper's Row, the Falconry Village, Working Dog Village and the Prince Albert Angling Village.

There will also be a new Fieldsports Arena, offering advice for everything from pigeon plucking to installing night

vision equipment, and a new Survival Camp where ex-SAS soldier Bod Podesta will give lectures.

The Food Festival returns, the stylish side of country living will be highlighted with the clothes retailers and there will be plenty of opportunities to buy for the garden too.

The sporting line-up will include world series clay shooting and gundog finals, the European field target championship, and terrier and lurcher events.

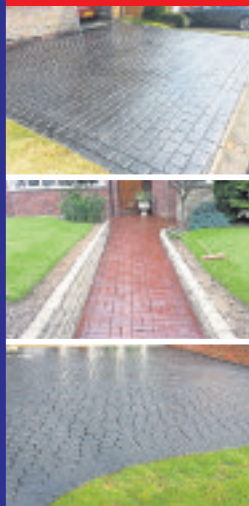
New for this year will be music stages featuring the best in roots and acoustic music, ranging from folk to jazz, with performers including Dan Whitehouse, Goat Roper Rodeo, The Black Feathers, Jacksboro Highway, Hensley Newman Blues, and The Big Easy.

On the day ticket prices will be £20 with under 16s free when accompanied by a paying adult. In advance weekend adult tickets are £34 and day tickets £18. For the latest information see www.midlandgamefair.co.uk website.

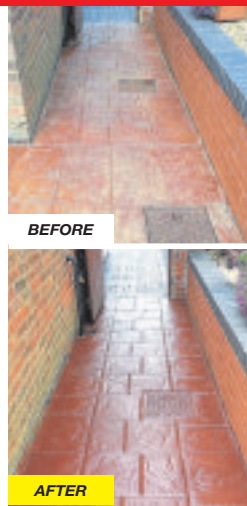


Dogs leap into action at the fair

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29th	BLENHEIM PALACE & 3 COURSE LUNCH	£41.00	£39.50
DECEMBER			
2nd	KEW GARDENS WINTER SCENES	£49.50	£47.50
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7th	CHESTER OR CHESHIRE OAKS	£24.00	£23.00
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Kandy, formerly isolated by dense jungle, was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings, and today custodian of Sinhalese culture. Here visit the fascinating Temple of the Tooth, which is said to hold Buddha's tooth, and is Buddhism's most sacred shrine on the island.

Also visit the cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site, showcasing Sri Lanka's extraordinary artistic heritage. The caves are completely covered by perfectly preserved frescoes and shrines, with hundreds of gold-coloured statues to admire.

There is also an included visit to the stunning Royal Botanical Gardens, planted over 150 years and covering a huge 150 acres, with the gardens holding thousands of plant species.

Enjoy a stay in the hill-station of Nuwara Eliya, a premier tea growing area. At nearly 7,000 feet above sea level. It is called 'Little England' due to its spring like climate, parks and golf course.

Also on the itinerary is a two-night stay in the south of Sri Lanka, close to the Yala National Park, famed for its high concentration of leopards. Here enjoy an exciting safari, where visitors can spot many.

For many, the highlight of the trip will be an included visit to Sigiriya, the 'Lion Rock', a 600ft granite tower with sheer cliffs on all sides crowned by the remains of a 1,500 year old royal palace.

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Vintage vinyl from a blues enthusiast



Bluesman Pete Boddiss runs a vinyl and guitar shop at the Stourbridge Music Centre in the town's Lower High Street

MUSIC lovers are in vinyl heaven after the launch of a new room in the Black Country selling vintage records by blues greats and rock 'n' roll pioneers.

It has been launched by musician Pete Boddiss above the Suites Galore studio in Lower High Street, Stourbridge. It is a blues fan's dream with more than 3,000 78rpm discs available, featuring the likes of Big Bill Broonzy, Jimmy Reed and Lighting Hopkins.

There are also records by rock 'n' roll legends such as Elvis Presley and Gene Vincent, who were influenced by the blues.

The room is part of his Vintage Shop, which is also packed with acoustic, semi-acoustic and electric guitars.

The records feature music dating from the 1930s to the 1960s, part of a collection Mr Boddiss has built up over the past decade with much of the vinyl coming from America and Canada.

Revival

And with vinyl experiencing a revival, the musician said he expected there to be a lot of interest.

"There is a large collection of records from some of the biggest names in blues and rock 'n' roll," he said. "We have all the equipment needed to play the records as well. If people aren't interested in buying, they are welcome to come along and have a listen."

Mr Boddiss is preparing for a gig of his own tonight (Thu) when he supports veteran Brum rockers The Steve Gibbons Band at the Robin 2 Club in Bilston. He will be performing blues music on vintage guitars.

Mr Boddiss is an enthusiastic collector of vintage stringed instruments, and owns unique items including an American acoustic guitar made in 1886 and a 1960s National bass that belonged to The Who's John Entwistle.

Standing ovation for dancer's final bow

Sylvie Guillem: Life in Progress, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE last dance was always going to be emotional but even formidable dance superstar Sylvie Guillem was visibly moved by the ten-minute standing ovation she received for her final performance in front of a British audience.

Even the famously no-nonsense étoile shed a tear as she made her farewell appearance as a performer after her solo performance in Mats Ek's aptly entitled Bye.

In her 50th year and after 39 of those years spent as a dancer — the Parisian former gymnast who was elevated to star dancer by Rudolf Nureyev at the Paris Opera Ballet, then in the late 1980s electrified The Royal Ballet before switching classical ballet for new challenges in modern dance — has decided to leave the stage while still at her best.

Typically, she refused to leave with a 'greatest hits' performance, championing new work and her favourite choreographers.

Guillem's one concession to past glories was the final poignant Bye, which utilised her qualities of grace, strength and passion.

In this signature work she portrayed a dowdy character escaping from an image on screen (with perfect timing) to dance without the restraints of convention.

She was dancing for joy, which is what she has done and brought to audiences for the past 40 years.



Charles (Robert Powell) watches William and Kate (Ben Righton and Jennifer Bryden)

Stubborn Charles is left in a right old royal mess

Charles III, Birmingham Rep

IN the week that Queen Elizabeth II became Britain's longest reigning monarch, Mike Bartlett's 'future history play' ponders what could happen when she dies.

The Queen is dead, long live the King, is the cry but the winner of the Olivier Award for best new play of 2015 envisages a brief new age of turmoil.

Avowed monarchists may want to give this one a miss, as the provocative storyline sees a stubborn Charles spark the biggest constitutional crisis since the Civil War by refusing to give royal assent to a new law to curb press freedom. Charles, like his namesake Charles I before him, goes to Westminster in all his finery to dissolve Parliament.

But as riots break out, it results in the Duchess of Cambridge slapping abdication papers in front of her father-in-law. Meanwhile, Princess Diana's ghost makes veiled appearances, separately telling both her ex-husband and eldest son that they will one day be 'the greatest king'.

Directed with customary flash and vigour by Rupert Goold, Bartlett's play is an irreverent fantasy that alludes to Shakespeare plays about rulers facing dilemmas — Richard II, Macbeth and King Lear — and often the characters speak in Shakespearean blank verse which jars somewhat with modern colloquial words, like freakout.

This production, co-directed by Whitney Mosery, benefits from a very strong central performance from stage and screen veteran Robert Powell as the principled new monarch, determined not to be 'just a Spitting Image puppet'. Powell does not impersonate His Royal Highness but suggests just enough of his characteristics to make the character familiar. The rest of the royals are presented more shallowly.

Not a crowning achievement but King Charles III is royally entertaining. It continues at Birmingham Rep until Saturday.

THEATRE REVIEWS

By Leon Burakowski

fast the ticket

King of comedy

Michael McIntyre is back
See Page 25

Tango with Strictly stars

Page 25



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The View



Friday, 7pm
Slade Rooms, W'ton

Scottish indie outfit The View, who originally hail from Dundee, arrive in Wolverhampton tonight with their latest tour. Here's hoping they have put some clean jeans on. . .

Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Imelda May



Thursday, 7pm
Wulfrun Hall, W'ton

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The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

That'll Be The Day

Wed at 7.30pm, £23.50
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

COMEDY

Michael McIntyre: Happy & Glorious

Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm, £35 - £50
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Comedy Night

Thu at 7pm, £9.90
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Alex Horne: Monsieur Butterfly

Fri at 8pm, £15
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Ship Of Fools Comedy

Fri at 7.45pm, £7
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

The Best In Live Stand-Up Comedy

Fri at 7pm, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.25
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Comedy In The Met

Sat at 8pm, £10
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Sean Hughes: Mumbo Jumbo

Thu at 8pm, £13.50 - £15.50
Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

TALKS

Keith Barry: Brain Hacker

Sat at 8pm, £21.40
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

An Evening With Nick Owen: Talk

Thu at 7.30pm, £15
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Peter & Dan Snow: The Battle of Waterloo Experience

Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm, £15 - £17.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

ART GALLERIES

Wendy Ramshaw's Room Of Dreams

Fri - Thu at 10.30am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

Parisian Cafe

Tue at 11am - 1pm, Wed at 11am - 1pm,
Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF. Call 0121 556 0683

FOOD & DRINK

Caribbean Sunday Lunch

Sun at 1pm - 3pm, £15
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Midlands Whisky Festival

Fri at 6pm - 9.30pm, Sat at 10.45am - 5.30pm, £30 - £150
Stourbridge Town Hall, DY8 1YE. Call 01384 812960

OTHER EVENTS

EGX 2015

Thu at 11am - 6pm, £17.50
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Ironbridge World Heritage Festival

Sat at 12 noon - 5pm
Wharfage, Ironbridge, TF8 7NH. Call 01952 433 424

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

'I simply love to make people laugh'

AFTER a three-year absence when he was off making hit TV shows, Michael McIntyre is now returning to what he does best: stand-up comedy.

This autumn, he is embarking on a major nationwide arena tour with his new show entitled *Happy & Glorious*. Travelling the length and breadth of the UK and Ireland, the tour confirms Michael's position as the most popular comedian on these islands. He'll line-up at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena tomorrow and Saturday, then again on September 25 and 26.

His previous tour, *Showtime*, was the biggest-seller in the world in 2012, playing to over 640,000 people. That included a record-equalling ten-night residency at London's O2 Arena, matching the figure set by pop superstar Rihanna the previous year. This tour may prove even more successful.

Michael has also thrived in the DVD market. He has so far released three best-selling DVDs. 2008's *Live and Laughing* was the biggest selling UK debut stand-up DVD of its time; *Hello Wembley*, which in 2009 became the fastest-selling UK stand-up DVD of all time, a record it still holds; and 2012's *Showtime*, which beat its competitors to the Christmas Number One spot.

He has been making a name for himself on the international stage, too. In 2013 he performed to sold-out arenas in South Africa, Dubai, Norway, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. Michael's performance to an audience of 9,000 in Johannesburg was the largest ever comedy show in Africa, and his run in Dubai won him



London comedian Michael McIntyre can pull bigger crowds than most pop stars

the Time Out Best Night Out award.

It's no surprise that his live show is such a hit all over the world, Michael dazzles audiences with fantastically funny material drawn from his life as a husband and father-of-two.

The comedian, who has won enough awards to endanger the stability of

his mantelpiece, adds: "I can't wait to be playing once again to a big room that is really enjoying the show. I'm looking forward to thinking, 'If you're loving that, wait till you hear this!' I'm bringing everything to this show – voices, physical comedy, the works. I simply love making people laugh."

Dance duo's Last Tango

KEEP dancing but only together for a little while longer... ex-Strictly Come Dancing professionals Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace-Mistry bring *The Last Tango*, their farewell show, to Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, September 22 to 26.

The Italian dance duo who met in England, famed for their poise and passionate performances, have been dancing together for 20 years.

During that period they were World Dance title holders, starred in their own West End shows and tours – including *Midnight Tango* and *Dance 'Til Dawn* – and most famously participated as professionals in several series of *Strictly*. Flavia won the celebrated Glitterball trophy in 2012 partnering Olympic gymnast Louis Smith.

"We have had such a fantastic time," said Flavia, who is married to her former *Strictly* partner Jimi Mistry, the Coronation Street actor who graduated from drama school in Birmingham.

"It's an incredible experience to perform live in front of our wonderful audience night after night, but all good things must come to an end."

Vincent, who this summer married long-term girlfriend Susan Duddy, added: "The last few years have been amazing. It may be our final theatre tour but we're going to go out with a bang."

Native Monster online writer Steven Ecott took a dance workshop with Vincent and Flavia – watch the video and see how he got on, plus find out more about the show, at native monster.com



Sancho celebrated by a leading actor

PATTERSON Joseph brings his elegant one-man show *Sancho - An Act of Remembrance* to Birmingham Rep's Studio venue for four nights from Tuesday. RSC and National Theatre actor Patterson also wrote this celebration of Charles Ignatius Sancho. Born on a slave ship in the 18th century, Sancho became an author and composer, and was painted by Gainsborough.

King Charles III is in the main house until Saturday. Sarah Cameron performs dark Scottish fantasy *The Red Chair* at The Door for three nights from tonight (Thu). Stan's Cafe give movies a surreal Japanese twist in *A Translation of Shadows* at The Door Monday-Wednesday.

Weird hit podcast brought to stage

A QUIRKY US podcast that has won a cult following among sci-fi fans and connoisseurs of weirdness is making the transition to the stage in Birmingham as part of a UK tour.

Welcome To Night Vale is a spoof radio broadcast from a strange desert town, a kind of Lake Wobegon meets Twin Peaks where aliens are likely to be among your neighbours.

Written by Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor, the stage version will feature material not used in the podcast and will feature the soothing tones of the host Cecil Palmer, played by Cecil Baldwin. It's at the New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday.

Classic rock is in the spotlight

THERE is an impressive array of gigs for fans of 1960s and 70s rock over the next few days.

It starts tomorrow night (Fri) with an evening with Crosby, Stills & Nash. David Crosby, Stephen Stills and Graham Nash have each been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice – with Crosby, Stills & Nash, and with The Byrds, Buffalo Springfield, and The Hollies, respectively.

Meanwhile, the Robin 2 in Bilston has drummer John Coghlan's Quo performing vintage Status Quo tomorrow, John Lees' Barclay James Harvest on Sunday and Stackridge on their Final Bow tour on Tuesday.

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The Walker Art Gallery collection is in an impressive Victorian building



Mathew Street Pic: VisitEngland /Mark McNulty



Albert Dock houses a range of restaurants, shops, bars, museums and galleries

Let it be Liverpool, vibrant home of The Beatles and a whole lot more

THE Cavern was rammed, the mop-tops were rocking I Want To Hold Your Hand, it was only the Spanish accent between songs that made the illusion fade.

Welcome to International Beatles Week. I was sharing a famous brick cellar on Merseyside with a united nations of Fab Four aficionados enjoying Barcelona's tribute to The Beatles, The Flaming Shakers, having just squeezed past Japan's answer to the famous four posing for photos in Mathew Street.

You could be forgiven for thinking that every week is International Beatles Week in Liverpool, where the most famous pop group ever still play a vital role in the tourist industry. But organisers of the special week which takes over several venues in the city, including the three stages based on the

by Leon Burakowski

network of cellars that birthed the Beatles, is a massive draw.

It was pure coincidence that I happened to be visiting during the Fab Four feast but the festival is obviously popular with the die-hard devotees. Most of Scandinavia's Beatles fans seemed to be staying at the same hotel as me.

Mathew Street, at the epicentre of Liverpool's Cavern Quarter near shopping destination Liverpool One, is one big photo opp with its bricks engraved with the name of every band that played the legendary venue, from Billy J Kramer to Oasis. Meanwhile, John Lennon's statue nonchalantly leans on the wall and seems to watch the crowds with mild amusement.

The street has several pubs once frequented by 'Four Lads Who Shook The

World' plus an array of shops and venues selling Beatles memorabilia.

But there is more to Liverpool than The Beatles. The city was long Britain's most important port and remains a cosmopolitan and culturally vibrant hub.

Waterfront

It's monumental waterfront buildings confirm the city as Britain's equivalent to New York. At Albert Dock the red pillared warehouses have been converted into bars, restaurants, galleries and shops. It also has Merseyside Maritime Museum, revealing its sea-going history and its infamous role in the slave trade at its third floor International Slavery Museum.

Liverpool's cultural offering is substantial with Tate Liverpool at Albert Dock and the Walker Art Gallery on William Brown Street. The Walker has a superb collection

of 500 pieces including work by Rembrandt, Rubens, to Lowry and Hockney.

The fascinating World Museum nearby is currently the only British venue for Mayas: Revelation of an Endless Time, an enthralling exhibition on loan from Mexico (until October 18). All are free, though the Tate charges for special exhibitions.

With St George's Hall opposite, the Walker forms part the most impressive array of Victorian civic architecture in Britain. The three main city theatres, The Playhouse, The Royal Court and Empire are all nearby, just a few yards from Lime Street rail station.

With its art and architecture, but most of all its irreverent quirkiness — such as the multi-coloured Dazzle Ferry painted by Sgt Pepper artist Sir Peter Blake and the zip-wire over busy Church Street — Liverpool is a city that never fails to impress.



The lobby at Hampton by Hilton Liverpool City Centre

I stayed at the Hampton by Hilton Liverpool City Centre Hotel, a few minutes walk from Albert Dock and the city centre. It is located on the edge of the up-and-coming Baltic Quarter next to the city's only brew pub The Baltic Exchange.

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

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CHOICE



Jenna Coleman

Doctor Who (BBC1, 7.40pm) Peter Capaldi is back as the eponymous time traveller, and there promises to be no shortage of slick adventures for the Gallifreyan and his long suffering assistant, Clara (Jenna Coleman). In the first offering it seems the Time Lord has gone missing, which is bad news for Earth dwellers, as a strange extra terrestrial force has frozen the skies. Clara is desperate to find her friend, but where is he and what is he hiding from? Could an arch enemy with a black hat and Scottish accent be responsible? The fine supporting cast includes Michelle Gomez, Jenna Redgrave, Kelly Hunter, and Clare Higgins. Fans of Thrones fans should also look out for Maisie Williams in an upcoming adventure.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Australia. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 Formula 1: Singapore Grand Prix - Qualifying Highlights. 6.35 BBC News. 6.45 Regional Programme. 6.50 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong quizzes another line-up of famous faces on the general knowledge game show. The teams are singer-turned-author Louise Wener and wildlife presenter Kate Humble, veteran Olympian Mary Peters and ice dance star Jayne Torvill, comedian Tony Hawks and broadcaster Henry Kelly and comedy duo Hilly and Pace. Who'll be best when it comes to picking the most obscure correct responses? 7.40 **Doctor Who.** New series. Peter Capaldi returns as the Doctor for another series of time-travelling exploits. However, as this first adventure begins, it seems the Time Lord has gone missing - which is bad news for Earth, as a mysterious alien force has frozen the skies. Clara needs to find her friend - but where is he and what is he hiding from? Things soon become clear with the appearance of a familiar old enemy with a black hat and Scottish accent. 8.30 **The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton hosts the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws with a performance by Jack Savoretti. 9.20 **Casualty.** On her first day, new junior doctor Alicia treats a vulnerable pregnant woman and realises her relationship is not what it seems. Meanwhile, Dylan makes an effort with Lofly. 10.10 BBC News; Weather. 10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Arsenal and Manchester City v West Ham United; National Lottery Update. 11.55 **Film: Rogue.** (2007) Thriller, starring Radha Mitchell and Michael Vartan. 1.15 **Weather for the Week Ahead.** 1.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: Anne of Green Gables. (1934) 7.25 **Film:** Sharpy's Fabulous Adventure. (2011) 8.55 **Film:** The Last Flight of Noah's Ark. (1980) 10.30 **Animal Park.** (R) 11.00 More Creatures Great and Small. (R) 11.30 More Creatures Great and Small. (R) 12.00 Great British Menu. (R) 12.30 Great British Menu. (R) 1.00 **Film:** That's Entertainment Part Two. (1976) 3.00 **Triathlon.** 4.30 **Flog It!** Trade Secrets. (R) 5.00 **World's Busiest Railway** 2015. (R) 6.00 **The Harry Bikers Northern Exposure.** As the travellers head for Russia, they swap vehicles for Dave's old motorbike and sidecar before spending a night at the ballet, and also taste some of the country's finest foods. (R) 7.00 **Gardeners' World.** Joe Swift visits a tropical paradise in Runcom and Monty Don works on Longmeadow as autumn unfolds in the garden. (R) 7.30 **Galapagos - Islands of Change: Natural World.** David Attenborough narrates a documentary that looks at the impact increased migration and tourism has had on the Pacific archipelago's wildlife. (R) 8.30 **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring organises a dance in an attempt to boost platoon morale, but Pike interrupts proceedings to make an important announcement regarding his girlfriend Violet. (R) 9.00 **6 Degrees of Separation.** Panel game show, presented by Professor Brian Cox, with Ben Miller and Hugh Dennis leading two teams competing to find the scientific connections between six unlikely objects. (R) 9.30 **Mock the Week.** Ed Byrne, Sara Pascoe, Ed Gamble and Nathan Caton join Dara O Briain, Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons for the topical comedy show. (R) 10.00 **Cradle to Grave.** The world is changing for Spud as the docks face closure. (R) 10.30 **Boy Meets Girl.** A visit to an art gallery prompts Leo to ask Judy a very important question. (R) 11.00 **The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice.** Including an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R) 11.30 **Live Triathlon.** 1.50 **Film:** The Hunter. (2010) 3.15 This is BBC Two. 5.55 The Instant Gardener. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.30 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Super 4. (R) 7.40 Adventure Time. 8.00 Marvel Avengers Assemble. 8.30 Fish Hooks. 8.45 Horrid Henry. 9.00 Jessie. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.30 The X Factor. (R) 11.30 Rugby World Cup. Tonga v Georgia (Kick-off 12.00pm). 1.55 Rugby World Cup. Ireland v Canada (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.30 Rugby World Cup. South Africa v Japan (Kick-off 4.45pm). 6.45 **Regional Programme;** Weather. 6.55 **ITV News;** Weather. 7.00 **Keep It in the Family.** Bradley Walsh hosts the game show in which families from Leeds and Manchester go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. Heidi Range, Kimberly Wyatt, Brian McFadden, Rebecca Ferguson, Michelle Heaton and Louis Walsh are the celebrities holding clues to the prizes on offer, and there are performances from Britain's Got Talent stars Jack Pack and living cartoon artist Ennio Marchetto. Last in the series. 8.00 **The X Factor.** Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present coverage as the audition stage concludes, with another batch of applicants performing in front of judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora, as well as an arena audience of thousands, in the hope of winning one of the coveted places at Boot Camp. Continues on ITV tomorrow at 7pm. 9.30 **Through the Keyhole.** Keith Lemon hosts a revival of the classic game show originally presented by David Frost. Visiting three mystery celebrity homes each week, he challenges an all-star panel to guess the identities of the famous occupants. This week's guests are Bruno Tonioli, Davina McCall and Dave Berry. 10.30 **ITV News;** Weather. 10.45 **Film: Invictus.** (2009) Premiere. Newly elected President Mandela seeks to use the 1995 Rugby World Cup to unite a divided South Africa. Clint Eastwood's factual drama, with Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon. 1.20 **Jackpot** 247. 3.00 Show Me the Telly. (R) 3.50 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.35 Great Scottish Swim 2015. 7.30 Para Tri. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 11.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 11.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 12.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ayr and Newbury. 4.10 Channel 4 News. 4.30 Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.20 Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.05 **Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help two sets of first-time buyers search for properties in Bristol and the nearby countryside of the Cotswolds. (R) 7.00 **Grand Designs.** Boat enthusiast James Strangeways invites Kevin McClood to survey progress on the construction of his new home, which his architect nephew Ben Hebblethwaite has designed to be as "un-houssie" as possible. James has spent the past 35 years travelling the canals and waterways of Britain, and despite never living houses, has decided now is the time to put down roots on dry land. Ben hoped a home standing on stilts above a marsh, and incorporating ship-like qualities such as a keel-shaped roof, will be enough to satisfy his boat-mad uncle. However, Ben's contractor goes into liquidation a few months into the project, taking £87,000 of the £300,000 budget, and when James decides to make a few tweaks to the design, alarm bells begin to ring for the young architect. (R) 8.00 **Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors - Secret History.** Recent discoveries about China's Terracotta Army, an extraordinary collection of ceramic sculptures unearthed in 1974 and dating back more than 2,000 years. (R) 9.00 **It Was Alright in the 1960s.** Matt Lucas narrates another look back at TV shows from past decades, revisiting the changing social attitudes reflected on the small screen in the 1960s. 10.00 **Gogglebox.** (R) 11.05 **Film: Battle: Los Angeles.** (2011) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart and Ramon Rodriguez. 1.20 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 2.15 Hollywood. (R) 4.25 **Location, Location, Location.** (R) 5.20 Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 **SpongeBob SquarePants.** 10.30 **Cowboy Builders.** (R) 11.25 **Cowboy Builders.** (R) 12.25 **Cowboy Builders.** (R) 1.20 **Film:** Columbo Goes to College. (1991) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. 3.15 **Film:** Asteroid! Final Impact. (2015) Premiere. Disaster thriller, starring Mark Lutz. 5.00 The Nightmarer Neighbour Next Door. (R) 6.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Enforcement officers are faced with the difficult job of evicting a woman with two children - a task that takes a turn for the worse when her ex-partner makes an appearance. In Liverpool, locals threaten a riot over an unpaid debt at a computer shop, while two agents come across an extremely rare car in the course of their duties. (R) 6.55 **Film: Left Behind.** (2014) Premiere. The world is plunged into chaos when millions of people suddenly disappear. An airline pilot tries to save the remaining passengers on his flight, while on the ground, his daughter tries to find out if her mother and brother are among those who have vanished. Fantasy adventure based on the series of novels by Jerry B Jenkins and Tim LaHaye, starring Nicolas Cage and Lea Thompson. 8.55 **5 News Weekend.** 9.00 **Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present action from the Football League, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Brighton & Hove Albion, Nottingham Forest v Middlesbrough and Rotherham United v Cardiff City in the Championship, Swindon Town v Burton Albion in League One, and Oxford United v Portsmouth in League Two. 10.30 **Celebrity Big Brother: The End is Nigh.** The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt. 11.30 **Film: Date Movie.** (2006) An unloved and overweight woman contends with a jealous rival and disapproving parents to get the man of her dreams. Spoof romantic comedy, with Alyson Hannigan and Adam Campbell. 12.55 **SuperCasino.** 3.10 **Celebrity Big Brother: The End is Nigh.** (R) 4.00 **Transporter: The Series.** 4.50 **Make It Big.** (R) 5.45 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three 7.00 Don't Tell the Bride 8.00 Top Gear: The Best of Series 22 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News 9.30 **Film:** Never Back Down (2008) 11.15 Family Guy 1.30 Top Coppers 2.00 Fied 2.30 Russell Howard's Good News 3.00 Don't Tell the Bride 4.00 Close **BBC Four** 7.00 India's Frontier Railways 8.00 Timeshift: The Golden Age of the Tram - A Streetcar Named Desire 9.00 Beck: Room 302 10.30 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley 11.15 **Sings Motown** 12.30 Northern Soul: Living for the Weekend 1.30 Love Me Do: The Beatles '62 2.30 TOTP2 3.45 Close **ITV2** 11.35 You've Been Framed!: Animals 12.35 The X Factor 1.40 The Xtra Factor 2.40 Catchphrase 3.25 **Film:** Sweet November (2001) 5.40 **Film:** The Shaggy Dog (2006) 7.40 **Film:** Bean (1997) 9.30 The Xtra Factor 10.30 **Celebrity Juice** 11.15 **Safeword** 12.50 **Fake Reaction** 1.25 **Carz Beaches** 2.10 **Totally Bonkers** Guinness World Records 2.35 **Pixie Lott: The Hot Desk** 2.45 **Teleshopping** **ITV3** 1.50 **Lewis** 10.00 **The Road to Coronation Street** 11.40 **Wire in the Blood** 1.10 On the Buses 2.05 **ITV3 Nightscreen** 2.30 **Teleshopping** **ITV4** 12.55 The Car Chasers 1.50 **Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977) 3.45 **Film:** Smokey and the Bandit II (1980) 5.50 **Storage Wars** 7.15 **Rugby World Cup France v Italy** (Kick-off 8.00pm). 10.15 **Storage Wars** 10.45 **Hat-Trick Heroes** 11.00 **Rugby World Cup Highlights** 12.15 **Film:** Driven (2001) 1.25 **North Circus** 2.55 **ITV4 Nightscreen** 3.00 **Teleshopping** **E4** 11.00 **How I Met Your Mother** 12.00 **Made in Chelsea LA** 1.00 **Film:** Hop (2011) 3.00 **Melissa & Joey** 4.00 **The Big Bang Theory** 6.30 **Film:** Edward Scissorhands (1990) 8.30 **The Big Bang Theory: Top 5 Army** 11.00 **The Inbetweeners** 12.00 **The IT Crowd** 1.05 **Rude Tube** 2.10 **Bad Robots** 2.35 **The Inbetweeners** 3.25 **The IT Crowd** 4.20 **How I Met Your Mother** **Film4** 11.00 **The Frogmen** (1951) 1.00 **Fletcher** (1985) 3.00 **A Monster in Paris** (2011) 4.45 **The Princess Diaries** (2001) 7.10 **Just Married** (2003) 9.00 **Unstoppable** (2010) 11.00 **The Woman in Black** (2012) 12.50 **The Inbetweeners** (2011) 2.55 **The Cicones** 3.15 Close

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CHOICE



Michelle Dockery
Downton Abbey
(ITV, 9pm)

All good things must come to an end, and sadly this is the final six-part run of writer Julian Fellowes' globally successful period drama. However, there promises to be plenty of twists and turns before the regulars close the doors for good in a few weeks. In the first offering, Mary's past catches up with her when an unwelcome visitor delivers an ultimatum. While Violet is on the warpath thanks to news about the running of Downton Hospital, those below stairs discover social changes are endangering their futures. And Daisy's best intentions at the Mallerton House auction don't quite pay off. With a top drawer cast including Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville and Michelle Dockery, this promises to be unmissable TV.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **11.45** Battle of Britain 75: From Westminster Abbey. **1.30** Sunday Politics. **2.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.05** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.05** Points of View. **4.20** Tribute to a Queen – The Big Sing. **5.00** Formula 1: Singapore Grand Prix – Highlights.
6.35 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Adam Henson is in the Lake District, discovering how getting out and about in the countryside is not only fun and inspiring, it is also good for mind and body. He finds out about one of the first British adventurers, Millican Dalton, and gets mountaineering tips from an award-winning mountain leader. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents an episode from RAF Coningsby, an operational air base in Lincolnshire, where she takes to the sky in a Dakota aircraft and examines some air force memorabilia.
9.00 The Go-Between. Adaptation of LP Hartley's novel, a tragic story of forbidden desire and betrayal, as seen through the eyes of impressionable boy Leo Colston, who has been invited to stay at his upper class friend Marcus's elegant family home in the summer of 1900. Leo is instantly enthralled by Marcus's older sister Marian, and finds himself drawn into a web of deceit as she pursues an illicit affair with tenant farmer Ted Burgess that crosses social boundaries. Unable to comprehend the true implications of the affair, Leo sets in motion a chain of events that ultimately prove the catalyst for a tragedy that will haunt him forever. Starring Jim Broadbent.
10.30 BBC News.
10.50 Regional Programme.
11.00 Eat Well for Less? Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin help the Austens from West Sussex, who are devoted to expensive brands and tend to stockpile food, leaving barely any spare room in their fridge. (R)
12.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.05 BBC News.

BBC2

6.40 Countryfile. (R) **7.40** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.10** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.40** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.10** Great British Menu. (R) **10.40** Great British Menu. (R) **11.10** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip: (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Australia. **4.45** Triathlon. **5.45** Battle of Britain 75: Highlights from Westminster Abbey.
7.00 World's Weirdest Events. Chris Packham presents this documentary from the team that produced Nature's Weirdest Events, unlocking the secrets behind some of the world's most unusual occurrences. (R)
8.00 The Best of Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond look back at highlights of season 22 of the motoring series, including crazy challenges, the most desirable new car models and a classic Star in a Reasonably Priced Car.
9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. The 13 remaining contestants are placed under the command of Jason Falla, a former member of the Australian SAS. He sets a challenge that gives them a taste of operating behind enemy lines with a training exercise in which they have to march through the night through hostile territory to transport supplies to a guerrilla force – who do not make life easy for their allies.
10.00 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Southampton v Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace.
11.10 Family Guy. Stewie impregnates himself with Brian's DNA to save their friendship, while Peter and the guys try to make a viral video.
11.30 Family Guy. The Griffins receive a letter from the Nielsen Company telling them that they have been selected to have their television viewing habits monitored.
11.55 Film: Down Terrace. (2009) Father-and-son gangsters are released from prison and try to identify the informant in their organisation. Crime comedy starring real-life father and son Robin and Robert Hill.
1.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.10** Scooby. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Horrid Henry. **9.00** Horrible Science. **9.25** The Unforgettable Sid James. (R) **10.00** The X Factor. (R) **11.30** Rugby World Cup. Samoa v USA (Kick-off 12.00pm). **1.55** Rugby World Cup. Wales v Uruguay (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Rugby World Cup. New Zealand v Argentina (Kick-off 4.45pm). **6.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.55** ITV News; Weather.
7.00 The X Factor. The first of two boot-camp programmes sees the successful contestants from the arena auditions stage undertake a series of singing challenges when they are put through their paces by judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Rita Ora and Nick Grimshaw at a grand country house. Presented by Caroline Flack and Olly Murs.
9.00 Downton Abbey. New series. Mary's past catches up with her when an unwelcome visitor delivers an ultimatum, as secrets and rifts threaten the unity of the family. News about the running of Downton Hospital puts Violet on the warpath, while those below stairs find social changes are putting their futures in jeopardy and Daisy's good intentions at the Mallerton House auction have disastrous consequences. Final series of the costume drama, starring Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville and Michelle Dockery.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Action from the third day's matches, which were Wales v Uruguay, Samoa v USA and New Zealand v Argentina.
11.50 River Monsters. Jeremy Wade returns to Australia's deadly Fitzroy River to investigate one of the world's rarest fish, the glyphis shark – a species so mysterious that little is known about it. (R)
12.20 Murder, She Wrote. Jessica tries to clear a friend's son of murder. (R) **1.20** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** British GT Championship. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** Film: 10 Things I Hate About You. (1999) Comedy, starring Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles. **3.25** Film: St Trinian's. (2007) Comedy, starring Rupert Everett. **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Crossrail Discovery: London's Lost Graveyard. Documentary catching up with London's Crossrail engineers less than two years after the project's excavations uncovered the 14th-century Charterhouse plague pit. In an extraordinary turn of events, further work on the Liverpool Street station has revealed another burial ground, this time accommodating the capital's radicals, rebels and outsiders. The Bedlam burial ground, which is thought to be the final resting place of nearly 20,000 people, was believed to be lost for around 300 years. Now, with the excavation process under way, archaeologists and historians have been using bone analysis techniques in conjunction with parish records to reveal the names and life stories of those whose remains were found on-site. (R)
8.00 Time Crashers. The celebrities find themselves working in a Victorian fishery in 1885, where they have one day to fulfil a huge order destined for London's Billingsgate Market.
9.00 This Is England '90. Lol, Woody and Milky revel in domestic bliss during the summer of 1990, while the rest of the gang embark on a journey they will never forget.
10.00 Big Fat Quiz of the 90s. Jonathan Ross, Jo Brand, Sue Perkins, Lee Mack, Bob Mortimer and Richard Ayoade demonstrate how much they remember about the 1990s. Jimmy Carr asks the questions. (R)
11.40 Film: Underworld: Rise of the Lycans. (2009) Fantasy horror prequel, starring Michael Sheen.
1.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.35** You Deserve This House. **5.30** 1001 Things You Should Know. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.05** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.30** Jelly Jam. (R) **8.45** LazyTown. (R) **9.15** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.45** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.20** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.50** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **2.40** Film: Independence Day: Resurgence. (2013) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds. **4.20** Film: The Machine. (2002) Sci-fi adventure, starring Guy Pearce.
6.10 5 News Weekend.
6.15 Film: 2012. (2009) A scientist learns the world is soon to face a global cataclysm that will wipe out the human race, but finds the US president has plans to secretly save a fraction of the population, leaving everyone else to die. A writer learns of this scheme, and as the world is devastated by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, he tries to get his family to the last safe refuge. Disaster movie, with John Cusack and Chiwetel Ejiofor. Edited for language.
9.00 Celebrity Big Brother: End of the World. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room.
10.00 30 Greatest Disaster Movies. A countdown of the most memorable disaster movies of the past 50 years, including Airport and Independence Day, with celebrities and fans talking about their favourite moments.
11.30 Film: Planet of the Apes. (2001) An astronaut crash-lands on a strange planet ruled by intelligent apes, who capture and enslave him. Tim Burton's sci-fi remake, starring Mark Wahlberg, Helena Bonham Carter, Tim Roth and Michael Clarke Duncan.
1.40 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Film: The 51st State (2001) **11.25** Russell Howard's Good News **11.50** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **12.55** Family Guy **1.20** Fried **1.45** Top Coppers **2.15** Girls Can Code **3.15** Russell Howard's Good News **3.45** Sunny D **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Last Night at the Proms from Around the UK **8.30** The Art of the Impossible: MC Escher and Me **9.00** Exposed: Magicians, Psychics and Frauds – Storyville **10.20** BBC: The Secret Files **11.20** Al Murray's Great British War Movies **12.30** Mumbai High: The Musical **1.20** Bought with Love: The Secret History of British Art Collections **2.25** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **3.25** Close
ITV2
12.20 Catchphrase Mother's Day Special **1.15** You've Been Framed! Funniest 100 **2.15** Film: The Shaggy Dog (2006) **4.20** The X Factor **5.50** The Xtra Factor **6.50** Film: Twins (1998) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Film: Scary Movie V (2013) **11.50** Viral Tap **12.35** Reality Bites **1.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.40** Animal Practice **2.00** Ariana Grande: The Hot Desk **2.10** Teleshopping
ITV3
9.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.35** City Lights **11.35** Lewis **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale
ITV4
11.55 BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **12.55** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **2.50** Film: Smokey and the Bandit II (1980) **4.55** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **7.45** Film: Driven (2001) **10.00** Film: Red Heat (1988) **12.10** Film: The Fog (1980) **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.35** Bad(ish) Robots **3.00** Rude(ish) Tube **3.30** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Hanna (2011) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.20** Young, Free & Single **2.25** How I Met Your Mother **2.45** Rules of Engagement **3.10** Hollyoaks
Film4
1.00 Destrý Rides Again (1939) **1.00** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) **3.20** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **5.45** The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (2008) **9.00** Men in Black II (2002) **10.40** Man on a Ledge (2012) **12.45** Another Year (2010) **3.25** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Final Verdict, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A lawyer's career is advanced when she successfully prosecutes a man for the murder of his wife. Years later, she discovers that the man she put away may have been innocent after all – and that he now wants revenge on her for his imprisonment. Thriller, starring Erica Durance and Sebastian Roberts. (2009)

TUESDAY
In the Dark, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman is blinded following an accident in which her husband and child are killed. She employs a nurse, only to discover he has developed a dangerous obsession with her. Thriller, starring Elisabeth Rohm, Sam Page and Shannon Elizabeth. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
Another Man's Wife, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A family takes a holiday in a remote mountain cabin to recover from a tragic accident. During the break, the members are befriended by a seemingly kind man, unaware that he is harbouring a grudge against them and has a twisted plan to ruin their lives. Thriller, starring Rena Sofer and Dylan Neal. (2011)



The Box, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

THURSDAY
Committed, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A psychologist recovering from the death of her fiancée takes a job working at her mentor's unconventional mental institution. Soon after arriving, she discovers she is officially a patient, not a staff member – and a series of strange events makes her fear she is actually going mad. Thriller, starring Andrea Roth and Richard Burgi. (2011)

FRIDAY
The Box, BBC1, 11.55pm
A couple are given a mysterious wooden box with a button on it and told that if they press it, they will be given a million dollars but that someone somewhere in the world will die. After pressing the button, they fear they may be the next victim when the box is passed on, and try to find out how and why this is happening. Sci-fi thriller, with Cameron Diaz and James Marsden. (2009)

Gareth is stripping away the backing

Singing a cappella is the ultimate test of any choir according to Gareth Malone.

"Only once you've stripped away all those musical crutches that a backing track offers – it's possible to truly see, and test, the group's quality."

Originally used in religious circles, a cappella (Italian for "in the manner of the chapel") is music performed by a group or solo singer without any instrumental accompaniment.

It has become increasingly popular in recent years, with talent shows such as The X Factor challenging singers to perform a cappella to get a true indication of the power and range of their voices before making a decision on their futures.

The style has also gained popularity thanks to the 2012 film Pitch Perfect in which all-girl singing group The Bellas take on their male rivals in a campus competition.

Malone, the man behind BBC2's The Choir – which won two TV Baftas – and Gareth's All Star Choir which saw a group of celebrity singers score a No.1 last year in aid of Children in Need, is using the a cappella as the inspiration for his latest series, as he embarks on a search for the nation's most entertaining amateur group.

But although Malone has made it clear that musicianship and technical ability are important, he will also be looking for funny and astonishing performances, including some choreography and gymnastics, that could turn groups into viral stars.

Therefore The Naked Choir is expected to cover a wide variety of genres, with choirs and singing groups from gospel, barbershop, hip hop, doo wop and more all encouraged to enter at the audition stage earlier this year.

The entrants have now been whittled down to eight groups to compete in the six-part series, which will focus on their preparations for performances at famous public venues in front of big audiences.

A jury of carefully selected music experts have the final say and will decide which choirs stay in the competition and which go home.

The Naked Choir is the first commission for Malone since controller Kim Shillinglaw took charge of BBC2 in April last year.

"Gareth's energy and enthusiasm are infectious," she said.

Twenty Twenty's Tim Carter has executive produced the series, and is also clearly excited to be working with Malone.

"We've seen Gareth create choirs from scratch," he adds.

"Now he's going to lift the lid on a remarkably vibrant and creative British amateur singing scene."

"The stripped-back performances will feature no backing tracks or musical instruments in a bid to pose the ultimate test of vocal dexterity, creativity and ingenuity."

Tonight, a London community choir, an Essex gospel group, a sextet of Southampton students and female barbershoppers from Portsmouth attempt to harmonise their way into the competition's next stage.

Will they hit the right note with Gareth and judges? Or will their performance tonight be their swan song?



The Naked Choir with Gareth Malone, Tuesday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Gadget Show, Channel 5, 7pm
If you have an insatiable love of gizmos, then the good news is Jason Bradbury, Amy Williams and the team are back with a new run of this ever engaging strand. As always they will be reviewing the latest technological devices on the market, including a behind-the-scenes look at gaming channel The Diamond Mindcart.

Doc Martin, ITV, 9pm
Fans of this ever engaging saga had a long wait between series, but it was worth it as Martin Clunes's eponymous medic is the best way to lift the spirits after the horrors of Monday. Yes, there's more of the usual picture postcard seaside shots, all the old favourites, and a few new ones to keep the doc on his toes, but that format never outstays its welcome. This week, Ellingham moves out of the Surgery to give Louisa space, which leaves a dotting Mrs Tishell worried that he won't be able to take care of himself. Elsewhere, the ever useless PC Penhale helps Janice babysit, and Al finds out about Bert's behaviour. There are bailiffs at the restaurant, and it doesn't look like they're after fish and chips.

TUESDAY
Deals, Wheels and Steals, ITV, 7.30pm
If you're a fan of Top Gear and Bargain Hunt, then imagine a cross between the two and you get the idea behind this new series. The format is simple: car dealers compete against each other to bag the best bargain motor and sell it for a profit. Of course it's going to take a lot of ingenuity for the participants to stay one step ahead of their rivals, as this opening episode proves. New dealer Jim goes up against more experienced traders to prove he's got what it takes to cut it in this dog eat dog world. May the best man, or woman, win.

WEDNESDAY
Midwinter of the Spirit, ITV, 9pm
This new supernatural drama is sure to raise goosebumps, as it follows the work of Merrily Watkins, one of the few women priests working as an exorcist. After losing her adulterous husband Sean in a car crash, Merrily seeks refuge in her job, but it provides little comfort when her 16-year-old daughter rejects her religious beliefs and is led into the path of danger. To complicate matters further, the

local police ask for Merrily's advice in the investigation of a grisly murder, and it's not long before she's risking life and limb to get to the bottom of the mystery as she starts to wonder whether satanists could be operating in the city. The stellar cast includes Anna Maxwell Martin and David Threlfall.



Midwinter of the Spirit, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?, BBC1, 9pm
BBC news correspondent Frank Gardner sets out to find out whether there is any truth in his late mother's claim that her side of the family first arrived in Britain with the Normans. During his search for answers, he manages to trace his ancestry all the way back to his 10-time great-grandfather Sir Michael Stanhope – a knight of the Tudor court, who was accused of treason. But the journey does not end there, as he gets much closer to his mother's suspicions than he could ever have imagined.

FRIDAY
Strictly Come Dancing, BBC1, 9pm
Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the first of this weekend's two live shows, which sees six of the 15 famous faces join forces with their professional partners to battle it out on the dance floor and convince judges Len Goodman, Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli and Darcey Bussell that they can trip the light fantastic with style and grace. This year's participants are Jeremy Vine, Katie Derham, Ainsley Harriott, Kellie Bright, Georgia May Foote, Carol Kirkwood, Peter Andre, Daniel O'Donnell, Anthony Ogogo, Jay McGuinness, Anita Rani, Jamelia, Helen George, Iwan Thomas and Kirsty Gallacher. But who will follow in the fleet-footed steps of 2014 winner Caroline Flack?

Piers Morgan's Life Stories, ITV, 9pm
Punk icon John Lydon, perhaps still best known as Johnny Rotten of Sex Pistols fame - talks to Piers about his life and career. The musician looks back on his controversial rise to fame and notoriety in the band that sent shockwaves through the music industry during the late 1970s, and made headline news with anti-establishment hits such as Anarchy in the UK and God Save the Queen.

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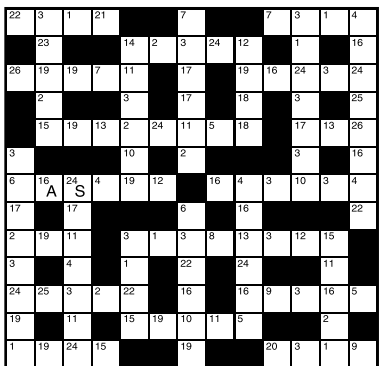
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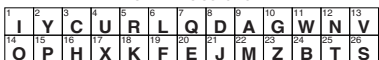
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

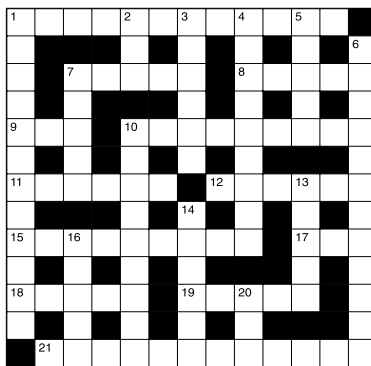
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Holding the trousers for two couples? (4,2,6)
- The round to end all rounds (5)
- Subtract 5 from 18 and add 500 as a corollary (5)
- Gained 2 (3)
- Intimate relationship leads to niggardiness? (9)
- Ripped or backed bull-fighter (6)
- Property in Eastern country (6)
- Prevent the whole lot being planted with trees (9)
- When to back 9? (3)
- Flower gets nothing for 16's one (5)
- Decoration obtained - could have been lamed (5)
- Evidence that an increase hurts? (7,5)

Down

- Act dangerously to produce spirited drama (4,4,4)
- Have 17 (3)
- Underneath about 50 make animal noises (6)
- Flying ship? (3-6)
- Furnish with some forgotten duets (5)
- Misunderstanding's got over cables (7,5)
- A punishing fellow, perhaps, to be more exact (5)
- One on the bottle is a twister! (9)
- Cancel and expunge article from year-book (5)
- Bacon would be back in the game (6)
- England (6)
- Learnedly (9)
- Hill (3)
- Porcelain (5)
- Bread-maker (5)
- There (2,10)



Quick Clues:

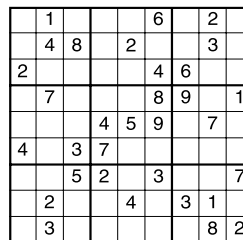
Across

- Serious lack of care (5,7)
- Fissure (5)
- Topic (5)
- Look at (3)
- Power-maker (9)
- Transfix (6)
- England (6)
- Learnedly (9)
- Hill (3)
- Porcelain (5)
- Bread-maker (5)
- There (2,10)

Down

- Testify (4,8)
- Observe (3)
- Prolong (6)
- From the side (9)
- Swindle (5)
- Back door (4,8)
- Inexpensive (5)
- Gad about (9)
- Bury (5)
- Weak (6)
- Fusion (5)
- Little goat (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Footman; 8 Orally; 9 Startle; 10 Tissue; 11 Inform; 12 Good hand; 18 Hornpipe; 20 Defeat; 21 Grasps; 22 Parties; 23 Honour; 24 Selfish. Down: 1 Postage; 2 Passion; 3 Slough; 5 Outsider; 6 Tariff; 7 Allure; 13 Ash-trees; 14 Mission; 15 Measure; 16 Deface; 17 Seat off; 19 Narrow. QUICK - Across: 4 Absolve; 8 Reason; 9 Flowery; 10 Jostle; 11 Target; 12 Constant; 18 Preserve; 20 Finish; 21 Frigid; 22 Pretext; 23 Cannon; 24 General. Down: 1 Project; 2 Passing; 3 Gobblet; 5 Bellie; 6 Onward; 7 Vortex; 13 Asphyxia; 14 Progeny; 15 Wedding; 16 Fierce; 17 Little; 19 Streak.

Thinking space

Quiz

- Who founded the first US detective agency in 1850?
- What plant is also called 'shepherd's weatherglass'?
- Who ruled England for nine days in 1553?
- Which poet wrote Sonnets from the Portuguese?
- Which metal is symbolised by the letters Co?
- What was the original surname of film producer Sam Goldwyn?
- What was the most famous TV role of actor Jay Silverheels?
- Which jazz player wrote the song Mood Indigo?
- What is the name of the professor in the game 'Cluedo'?
- Which fruit has varieties such as Merton Glory and Napoleon Bigarreau?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Butterfly; 2 Jamaica; 3 Berkshire; 4

Schwarzwald; 5 Yellow River;

6 The Red Cross; 7 1859; 8 Irving Berlin;

9 Richmal Crompton; 10 Purple Heart.

Niner: INTERPLAY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

569 gives a boy,
6427 gives a relative,
9827137 gives a professional.



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Three-storey family home for £240,000

A DISTINCTIVE three-storey family residence in Vale Street, Dudley, is in a sought-after position.

It is for sale through Skitts at £240,000.

This detached property has four double bedrooms. On the ground floor is an entrance hall, living room, dining room, a dining kitchen plus laundrette.

There is a family bathroom on the first floor plus an en suite shower room off the bedroom on the second floor.

There is parking to the front, a neat lawned front-garden, patio area and carport. The rear is hard landscaped.

Contact Skitts on 01902 686868 or visit www.skitts.net



Victorian style blended with modern convenience



A STUNNING blend of Victorian style and contemporary modern convenience, 4 Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank, has been lovingly restored and brought into the 21st century whilst retaining original character.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at £174,950 with no chain.

A spacious home with gas central heating and double glazing it has as an entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, sitting/dining room, breakfast room, kitchen with range oven, four bedrooms and in the bathroom is a roll top bath.

There is also a full height cellar, front driveway parking and a low maintenance rear garden with an outside WC.

For further information contact The Property Shop on 01384 456022 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk website.



Link-detached has breakfast/kitchen



AN EXTENDED link-detached house on the popular Northway housing estate in Elmwood Rise, Sedgley, has well proportioned accommodation including an extended breakfast kitchen, utility and WC.

It is for sale through Wakeman at a reduced asking price of £244,950.

Having a private rear garden and views to the rear towards fields and countryside, it has a porch, entrance hall, a through lounge and dining area and French doors, breakfast kitchen and French doors, utility, WC.

Bedroom one is with en suite, there are three further bedrooms and a bathroom.

Outside there is a block-paved driveway, garage and a rear garden.

For further information contact Wakeman on 01902 885894 or visit the website at www.wakeman-online.com



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SWINDON, Baldwin Way

Enjoying perhaps one of the best positions within sought after Baldwin Way, BACKING DIRECTLY ONTO COUNTRYSIDE, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED MODERN EXECUTIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME provides generously, beautifully presented and RE-APPOINTED accommodation. With an OPEN FRONT OUTLOOK, large driveway, DOUBLE GARAGE and a beautifully landscaped rear garden. EPC D



SWINDON, The Holloway

The Detached house on the village fringe, is superbly appointed plus a fitted office/studio, offering: Hall, Cloaks/WC, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Breakfast/Utility, Four Bedrooms, feature En Suite & Designer Bathroom and D/Grazed. Fore garden/Drive, Side gated Garage, and two Gardens. EPC C



WOODSETTON, Bosworth Close, 'The Poplars'

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! Situated upon CORNER PLOT a stylish, double glazed & gas centrally heated DETACHED comprising: reception hall, cloakroom, living room with bay, separate dining room, kitchen with a fine range of units, utility room, Principal bedroom with fitted units & shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, Double (17'7 x 16'7) garage, professionally landscaped rear garden. EPC D. SEDGLEY

£379,950

£286,950

Offers in the region of £249,950



SEDGLEY, Tipton Road

Spacious, modernised, centrally heated (combi boiler), double glazed inter war semi detached of character within level walking distance of the Bullring comprising: porch, hall, dining room with bay (original fireplace), separate lounge, verandah, cellar, upgraded kitchen, utility section and cloaks. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lengthy driveway to a detached 19ft brick garage, secluded garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY



GORNAL WOOD , Eaton Crescent

SPACIOUS EXTENDED gas centrally heated and double glazed enviably situated in favoured neighbourhood. Accommodation includes entrance porch, imposing reception hall, dining room with bay, extended 15'6" lounge, extended and RECENTLY REFITTED 15'0" kitchen with utility room beyond. Gallery landing three bedrooms (two with fitted 'tulip wood' units), bathroom, large carport, brick garage, expertly tended/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, East Street

THIS SUBSTANTIAL AND EXTENDED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME is furnished with a LARGE WELL FITTED KITCHEN and FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS. Also comprising: TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, FAMILY BATHROOM, En Suite Shower Room, Driveway, GARAGE and a Pleasant Rear Garden. EPC: D



COSELEY, Breen Rydding Drive

OUTSTANDING gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed semi detached accommodation provides entrance hall, delightful lounge, transverse refitted 17'3" dining kitchen with a fine range of 'walnut' effect units and various integrated appliances (patio doors), pantry, utility room, fitted cloak room. Three good bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes), reapointed bathroom Garage, neat gardens. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Dormston Drive

Situated within walking distance of Bull Ring; a gas radiator centrally heated, UPVC double glazed detached comprising: hallway, cloaks, 24'5" through living/dining room, kitchen, Three bedrooms, bathroom, block paving, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £189,950

Offers in the Region of £179,950

New price £169,500

Offers in the Region of £165,000

Offers in the Region of £159,995



WOODSETTON, Woodsetton Close

A fantastically presented and superbly maintained semi-detached property located on a sought after cul-de-sac, situated in the popular area of Woodsetton. This family home benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, THREE BEDROOMS, living room, kitchen-diner, family bathroom, garage, driveway to front and attractive enclosed rear garden.EPC:TBA SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

IMMEDIATE WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE!, a conscientiously maintained, significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached comprising: reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 17 ft living/dining room, upgraded kitchen, outer porch, Garage (utilised as additional living room). Three generous bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet. Block paved driveway, ample gardens. EPC. D SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL , Cypress Avenue, Thornleigh

A significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated and either aluminium or UPVC double glazed semi detached on corner plot offering potential in popular district. Accommodation includes reception hall, L-shape lounge (with patio doors), EXTENDED 25'0" BREAKFAST KITCHEN. Three bedrooms, LARGE 21'4" X 10'8" GARAGE, gardens and parking. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



LANESFIELD, Rookery Road

A freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached bungalow Accommodation provides porch, reception hall, two double bedrooms, sitting room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & many integrated appliances, brick/UPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, reapointed bathroom OFF road parking & further gated parking, delightful rear garden. EPC D. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Enviably situated in cul-de-sac just off The Straits within walking distance of the village & backing on to country park at rear; a significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed intermediate 'family home'; briefly comprising: hallway, spacious living/dining room, rear hallway with store, kitchen. Three generous bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite. Garage, sheltered garden abutting on to woodland. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,950

New price WAS £150,000, NOW £145,000

Offers in the Region of £145,000

Offers in the Region of £145,000

Offers in the region of £142,500



COSELEY, Quilter Close, Hurst Hill

NO UPWARD CHAIN.Delighfully presented semi detached residence set in a cul-de-sac location in sought after area of Coseley. This good-sized starter home benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, living room, kitchen-diner, conservatory, family bathroom, Garage, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front offering parking for ample vehicles. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY



GORNAL WOOD, Brook Street

Beautifully presented, traditional, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, TWO BEDROOM mid-terraced property set in the popular, Gornal Wood. This fabulous home benefits from well-presented living room, attractive breakfast-kitchen, utility area, stunning Victorian style bathroom, good-sized master bedroom, stunning cottage style enclosed rear garden. Viewing Essential to appreciate what this property has to offer. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Wealdstone Drive

A delightfully presented property situated in the popular area of Lower Gornal, benefitting from UPVC double glazing, part gas central heating, entrance hall way, guest W/C, living room, kitchen-diner,THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garden to front. Ideal first time buyer property. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



BROCKMOOR, Station Road

RATHER SURPRISING, VERSATILE DETACHED HOME with gas central heating and some double glazing: Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Hobbies Room, Utility, Guests Cloakroom, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom & Boarded Loft. Drive, Garden. NO CHAIN EPC F



QUARRY BANK, Watchman Avenue

THIS THREE BEDROOM HOME now requires some updating and modernisation and comprises: Porch, Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, Driveway & Rear Gardens. EPC E

Offers in the region of £129,950

Offers in the region of £114,950

New price WAS £117,500, NOW £114,950

£109,950

£109,950

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QUARRY BANK, Thorns Road

This EXTENDED, DETACHED HOME comprises: Spacious Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Lovely Lounge, Dining room, CONTEMPORARY BREAKFAST KITCHEN, FOUR BEDROOMS (Master with En-Suite), Family Shower Room, Driveway, Detached Garage and LARGE REAR GARDEN. EPC:D

£249,950



DUDLEY, Gervase Drive

SPACIOUS, IMMACULATELY PRESENTED, DETACHED HOME located close to the Priory Ruins. Comprising: Hall, Sitting Room with Dining Area, Splendid Kitchen, Utility, Guest Cloakroom, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Beautiful Garden EPC E

Offers in the Region Of £239,950



SEDGLEY, Longmeadow Drive, Northway

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! Gas centrally heated, mostly double glazed (both as seen) detached situated with lengthy garden abutting onto brook & open fields (and associated views beyond) for renovation comprising: hall, 20ft L shape lounge/dining room, third bedroom, kitchen (no units), two double bedrooms, bathroom, garage & driveway. Offers based on £180,000 to be submitted for the Executors consideration by midday Monday 28th September 2015. OPEN DAYS (appointments only) between 11am and 1pm Saturday 19th and 26th September, other appointments by arrangement with Sedgley Office. EPC:TBA

Offers based on £180,000



PENSNETT, The Plantation

Located within this delightful cul de sac, this EXTENDED MUCKLOW SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE requires updating, yet offers FANTASTIC POTENTIAL to enhance the already spacious, versatile layout. With driveway, GARAGE and a large pleasantly laid out garden. EPC E

£159,950



COSELEY, Maslin Drive, Hurst Hill

A 'refreshed' freehold, gas centrally and uPVC double glazed detached bungalow conveniently situated in 'quiet backwater'. Accommodation: entrance hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen, LARGE CONSERVATORY, two bedrooms, shower room, extensive parking, brick garage, good size secluded garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £154,950



LOWER GORNAL, Grosvenor Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. This surprisingly large and extremely well presented UPVC double glazed gas centrally heated detached dormer style BUNGALOW situated in the popular Lower Gornal area and benefits from entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to master), two large garages, front and rear gardens. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £154,950



SEDGLEY, Moden Hill

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY! Full planning consent secured to construct a magnificent detached split level family home. The plot slopes from East to West and it enjoys an unrivalled ELEVATED POSITION with magnificent panoramic DISTANT VIEWS to the West. Plans, drawings and other calculations are all for inspection at Sedgley Office. Viewing on site strictly by appointment.

Offers based on £150,000



COSELEY, Dalwood Close, Bramford

Attractive, ENLARGED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached, situated in short favoured cul-de-sac with LENGTHY REAR GARDEN. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance porch, hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room with patio doors, enlarged mostly refitted kitchen with 'Ikea' units. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy garden. Garage, and off road parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £150,000



NETHERTON, The Beck

This MODERN, THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY would make a lovely FAMILY HOME and comprises: Hall, Guests W.C, Spacious Lounge, Modern Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms (Master with En-Suite), White Suite Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden. EPC C

£139,950



QUARRY BANK, Ladywood Close

This SUBSTANTIAL and VERY WELL PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM HOME must be viewed to be fully appreciated and comprises: hall, well fitted kitchen, pleasant lounge, three large bedrooms, modern bathroom, driveway, garage, lovely rear garden. EPC E

£139,950



PENSNETT, Broad Street

A VERY DECEPTIVE MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED enjoying a DRIVEWAY and GARAGE plus LARGE REAR GARDEN, a superb setting enhancing the SPACIOUS and RECENTLY REDECORATED layout, with THREE GOOD BEDROOMS. EPC D

New price

£139,950



LOWER GORNAL, Elan Close

EXTENDED Freehold part gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed semi detached within walking distance of 'Five ways'. Offering significant potential the accommodation provides: hall, cloakroom, storage cupboards, lounge, magnificent refitted 'hub of the house' kitchen with granite work surfaces/island unit/ integrated appliances, large laundry room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garden, solar panel hot water. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £135,000



PENSNETT, Broad Street

Encompassing an IMPRESSIVE KITCHEN and a THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, this SEMI-DETACHED HOME would make a GREAT FAMILY HOME. The property also comprises: Hall, Stylish Lounge, Family Bathroom, Large Tarmac Driveway, Garage, Pretty Garden. EPC:D

£134,950



NETHERTON, Spring Meadow Road

This LARGE HOME has a MAJORITY UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED & GAS CENTRALLY HEATED LAYOUT and has GREAT POTENTIAL to create a DESIRABLE PROPERTY. Comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Driveway, Rear Garden. EPC:

£104,950



DUDLEY, Elm Green, Old Park Farm Estate

A conscientiously maintained and well presented, semi-detached property with UPVC double glazing, part gas centrally heated and situated the popular area of 'The Greens'. This fine property benefits from THREE BEDROOMS, living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, refitted bathroom, block-paved driveway and enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £104,950



NETHERTON, Prince Street

A RARE opportunity to acquire a WELL PRESENTED & LOW MAINTENANCE BUNGALOW with a LOVELY & LEVEL REAR GARDEN. Also comprising: Porch, Spacious Sitting Room, Well Fitted Kitchen, GENEROUS BEDROOM, Shower Room & Driveway. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:D

£89,950



HOLLY HALL, Cambridge Road

INVESTORS! CASH BUYERS ONLY: This SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Attractive Sitting Room with Dining Area, Modern Kitchen, Guests Cloakroom, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Off Road Parking and Large Rear Garden. EPC:

£87,000



TIPTON, Bonnevile Close

Superb, modern ground floor apartment which comprises of upvc double glazing, gas central heating and secure entrance doors, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom, allocated parking and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £79,950, NOW £74,950



Three-bed house has fitted kitchen

HAVING a good sized loft room, this deceptively spacious house in Banners Street, Halesowen, also has a long rear garden.

Well worth a viewing, it is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £135,000.

It has a reception hall with stairs off to the first floor, a lounge, a spacious dining room with laminate-style flooring and a feature fireplace, a fitted kitchen with a range of units and a door to the rear garden.

On the first floor are three bedrooms, a bathroom, ladder-style stairs to the boarded loft room and outside is a driveway with ample off-road parking.

For further information contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit www.hickshadley.com website.



Traditional features at home in a quiet location



THIS semi-detached property in Dennis Hall Road, Stourbridge, is in a quiet location within easy reach of Stourbridge town centre.

It is for sale through Select Property Management at £167,495 with no chain.

With traditional features it has a reception hall, lounge and an extended dining room, all with wood-effect flooring and a kitchen.

There are three bedrooms, shower room with a large shower cubicle, double glazing and gas central heating.

A low maintenance frontage provides off-road parking and there is an enclosed private rear garden and a garage.

Call Select Property Management on (01384) 277701 or www.selectsalesandlettings.com



K.Stuart Swash

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Improved property in a popular area

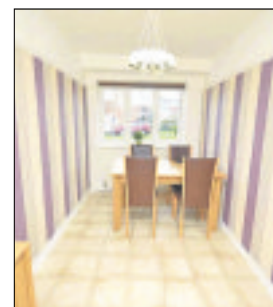
CONSIDERABLY improved, this semi-detached property in a desirable location in Andover Crescent, Kingswinford, comes with a granny/teenager annexe.

Having off-road parking for several vehicles and a garage, it is for sale through Your Move at offers over £205,000. Andover Crescent is situated on the High Acres development.

The ground floor comprises an entrance hall, lounge with French doors to a rear garden including a patio and lawn, a well-presented breakfast kitchen with modern light wood units, a formal dining room, landing to first floor, three bedrooms and a bathroom with a white suite.

There is a garage, annexe comprising an open plan lounge/kitchen, bathroom and a bedroom.

Contact Your Move on (01384) 455000 or visit www.your-move.co.uk





A stunning property and annexe with wow factor

No chain for this three-bedroom semi

IN a popular area, 42 Abbeyfield Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, is a three-bedroomed semi-detached home for sale through Skitts at £144,950 with no chain.

Its accommodation comprises a lounge with feature fireplace, a modern fitted kitchen with dining area, conservatory, three spacious bedrooms and a family bathroom. It also benefits from double glazing, central heating, an enclosed rear garden and driveway parking.

The property is well located for schools and amenities. For further information call Skitts estate agents on 01902 788188 or visit www.skitts.net



A LUXURIOUS family home with four bedrooms, three reception rooms, a conservatory and granny annexe in Dudley Road, Sedgley, has living space which is truly stunning.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £350,000.

It has a grand hallway, character lounge, open-plan further lounge with conservatory, dining area and kitchen, a further reception room, utility, downstairs WC and a granny annexe with wet room and open-plan kitchen/dining area and lounge. The master suite has a dressing room and en suite and the two further bedrooms are en suite.

There is an extensive driveway and a large garden.

Contact Trinity Property on (01384) 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net



House in cul-de-sac has lots of potential



LOCATED in a prestigious cul-de-sac off Compton Road West in Wolverhampton, Waterdale is a four-bedroomed detached property.

Although requiring general modernisation, it has tremendous potential and is for sale through Sanders Wright & Freeman at £315,000.

It has a reception hall, living room, sitting room, breakfast room, kitchen, garden WC, four bedrooms and a bathroom with separate WC. There is a drive and garage.

Waterdale is a cul-de-sac of individually built homes within walking distance of some of the areas most sought-after schools.

Contact Sanders Wright & Freeman on 01902 575555 or visit the website at www.swfestateagents.co.uk



K. Stuart Swash

'GARDEN COTTAGE' FARMCOTE, BRIDGNORTH, WV15 5PT



Situated in the delightful Shropshire hamlet of Farmcote this character property offers deceptively spacious accommodation of great charm, exposed beams blending with modern appointments and fittings including central heating Fully enclosed Porch, Hallway, fitted Cloakroom, Fine 20ft Lounge with fire recess having historic old beam, Superb 27ft Conservatory, Dining Room with wood burning stove, large Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, wide staircase, Three Bedrooms (one en suite), Bathroom. Truly delightful Gardens with Summer House, additional Grounds and Double Garage. Opposite the Cottage is a further area of land leading to tree lined meadow walk. EPC: G18

Offers around £585,000

53 CRANMERE AVENUE, THE WERGS, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV6 8TR



Standing in a much favoured and long established residential neighbourhood this appealing Detached Dormer Bungalow is now in need of some modernisation but, with the additional benefit of excellent Loft space, offers much scope to provide an attractive and comfortable home. Wide Entrance Hall, Lounge with decorative stone fireplace, Dining Room, Kitchen, Superb Conservatory, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. Spacious Loft area ideal for conversion to additional Accommodation (STPP), large Garden Store/Workshop with WC off, attached double Garage and large Carport, attractive enclosed Rear Garden. EPC: F.36

OFFERS AROUND £285,000

2 WATERLOO ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON TEL: 01902 710626 OR 424044
email: swashauctions@btconnect.com www.kstuartswash.co.uk

RS4 – an object of desire

By John Griffiths

There's are good reasons why younger riders are restricted to two-wheelers with limited power: but that doesn't mean they have to be dull.

That's certainly not an adjective you could apply to Aprilia's RS125, a sharply-styled replica of the Italian company's RS V4 superbike racing machine.

Indeed, at first glance it could easily be mistaken for a one-litre machine - until you notice the extra space in the frame where there's a single cylinder in place of the expected four. It's certainly a bike to attract envious glances from riders in their late teens and early 20s who make up the target market.

But it does borrow extensively from Aprilia's impressive record of producing world class racing machines in terms of technology, aerodynamics, chassis and handling.

At £4,571 it certainly isn't cheap for this class of bike, but you are getting a race-bred machine which will turn heads and put a smile on your face, albeit with the 15bhp power limit necessary for younger riders.

This restriction is a great leveller in performance terms, but as a subjective opinion the Aprilia has the edge in terms of style and handling.

It's light and very nimble, and with its super-slick six-speed gearbox is quite capable of reaching 65mph on level ground.

And it does it so well: even with just 125cc on tap, brisk acceleration produces a sporty bark rather than a strangled-by-the-exhaust gasp of less flamboyant machines. The sin-

gle piston revs willingly up to the 10,500rpm limit.

Top gear is pitched fairly high, so smaller, lighter riders may get to use it more often than me. It's a useful dual carriageway cruising gear, helping to make the theoretical 270 mile range from the 3.5 gallon tank a reality.

The original, and hugely popular, RS4's two-stroke engine was replaced in 2011 by the current fuel injected four stroke to help meet stricter emissions regulations.

The RS 125 has a proud heritage, with a host of championship wins in its class in the hands of riders such as Biaggi, Stoner and Lorenzo and the development of the road-going replica's version has certainly reaped the benefits of lessons learned from the race machine's evolution.

One area in which it stands out is in braking: given the power restriction Aprilia hasn't skimped on the anchors with a 300mm disc and four piston calipers at the front, and a 218mm disc at the rear. The 17-inch wheels are shod with a generously-sized 100/80 tyre at the front and a 130/70 at the rear.

The chassis is also based on the racing machine: tough yet light for precise handling.

The test bike's single racing seat is a reasonably comfortable example of its kind, the pillion portion having been replaced by a colour-coded shell.

The forward riding position means you're low enough to benefit from the wind protection of the aerodynamic fairing, proving that its functional as well as an eye-catching piece of design.

While it might not be the cheapest race replica in the 125cc class, the RS4 has the looks and abilities to make it an object of desire among those new to motorcycling.



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Sizzler on road and track

By Matt Joy

There's always room for improvement, even in the world of supercars. McLaren goes hunting with its lighter, faster and more powerful 675 LT.

Creating an even faster, track-ready version of an existing supercar could be achieved very quickly – and cynically; an engine tweak here, a bigger wing there.

But that's not how McLaren has gone about creating the limited run 675 LT. The Long Tail name references the F1 Long Tails created for further dominance in motorsport, and this road car is designed to work on the track too.

There's more power, but from an engine that is 50 per cent new. It's 100kg lighter, thanks to extreme measures like a slimmed-down wiring loom, improved aerodynamics also give the 675 a distinct look compared to its 650S sibling, and some clever features like the track telemetry app so you can play at being an F1 driver.

McLaren's first road car of recent times was pretty and functional, but during the intervening years, the style and impact of each model has consistently improved. The 675 LT is both dramatic and attractive, with the aero package adding to the race car look. It gives the bigger (and much more expensive) P1 a run for its money in terms of looks.

On the image front there's very little to touch the 675 LT. Not only does it benefit from being limited to just 500 examples, the racing pedigree can't be bought.

You'll want to leave the shopping at home, although if you're a bit of a show-off you can head for the local supermarket and return with 144 litres of goodies. More importantly the cabin space is good; the dihedral doors open up and away, and although the bucket seats are slim and require a little care, once you're in, the driving position is excellent and the view out is good.

There are also a few areas to store odds and ends, even cup holders, but you won't want to use those if you're exploiting the performance.

The 3.8-litre twin-turbocharged V8 delivers 666bhp (675PS in metric, hence the name) and 516lb/ft of torque, and with a kerb weight of just 1,230kg the performance is utterly spectacular. A sub-three-second to 62mph is a given, but the 0-124mph time of 7.9 seconds is borderline ludicrous. It might be turbocharged but the engine is hugely flexible and responsive, and in the right engine mode the quick-snap gear changes are accompanied by glorious pops from the exhaust.

The way the 675 LT behaves on road and track is equally stunning. With the scant restrictions of the track to worry about, you can revel in the grip, the balance and the delicacy of its behaviour, even at high speeds and with big g-forces.

As well as the aero changes, the 675 has tweaked ESP settings that are separate from the Handling mode, so you can have softer suspension on the road, but still with a loose safety net or the complete opposite on the track.

It's surprisingly friendly yet enormously involving, and of course, huge fun.

There is a substantial premium for the 675 LT over the 650S, but it's worth remember-



.....
‘Any lucky so-and-so in the fortunate position to buy one should be queuing up for a 675 LT.’
.....


ing how much of the car is different. The unique exterior, revised suspension, lightweight parts and extra performance give a notably different feel from its sister car. Even the telemetry system, which gives you the kind of data level that Mr Button and Mr Alonso get to play with at weekends adds to the experience. And say it quietly, but a car like this limited to just 500 worldwide won't lose too much money in a hurry.

Any lucky so-and-so in the fortunate position to buy one should be queuing up

for a 675 LT. There's always a market for 'everyday' supercars, but over and above that the track-focused versions are seemingly more in demand; the idea being you can drive your steed to the track, enjoy some hot laps and drive it home again, all without having to do anything other than fill it with fuel. You'll need to be on good terms with your McLaren dealer though; apparently all 500 are spoken for.

This car summed up in a single word: Sizzling. If this car was a Jet fighter it would be running rings around its enemies.

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Contender for best value

By Ian Donaldson

You might not be able to spell the company name properly (a double dose of S at the start and a capital Y in the middle don't help) but here is a car worth digging deeper into than the badge.

The new Tivoli (at least that part is easy enough, and has glamorous associations with Italy, Paris and Copenhagen) is the latest model from a Korean high value car maker that has decided it's time for a full frontal assault on the European car market.

In fact, SsangYong has been around since 1954 and has been selling inexpensive machines like the Rexton, Korando and Musso here for years, to people who like a lot for their money and don't mind if the car doesn't drive as well its (dearer) European rivals.

A few miles in the new Tivoli will make them sit up in surprise; here is a car that stays cheaper than rivals but looks thoroughly European inside and out and drives perfectly well enough to satisfy anyone short of a Lewis Hamilton wannabe.

Upping

Petrol powered Tivolis arrived earlier this year, with prices starting at £12,950 for an SE and stretching to £17,500 for the ELX with automatic transmission.

They all share the same 1.6 litre engine, good for 106mph and an official 44.1mpg average in manual geared form, and a £145 road tax bill because of its 149g/km tailpipe emissions.

Now comes the diesel, adding £1,250 to whichever trim level you choose but upping the average consumption to 65.7mpg and cutting



‘Car that stays cheaper than rivals but looks thoroughly European inside and out and drives perfectly well.’

road tax to zero in year one and a modest £30 thereafter, thanks to its 113g/km CO2 output.

Almost always with cars designed to be cheap to buy, the value in a range lies towards the bottom of the price list.

Not so here; there's good value at the entry point but later this year you'll be able to buy a Tivoli in top spec and four-wheel drive, with a

diesel under the bonnet and automatic gearbox, for £19,500. That looks like a proper bargain.

The diesel engine is precisely the same 1.6 litre size as the petrol but produces 113bhp against the petrol's 126bhp but, as is the nature of the breed, there's lots more pulling power at many fewer revs.

On the road that translates into fewer gear changes and much better economy (the test drive showed 54mpg against 40mpg in the petrol Tivoli) but the extra weight over the front wheels made the diesel feel a little bit less responsive to the steering.

That's splitting hairs though, in a car that could comfortably carry a badge you could

spell first time and not feel out of its depth. The Tivoli's clean and chunky lines continue into the cabin, where there is much use of good quality materials and a mere £350 adds a smart red leather upgrade to the top spec car on test, topping off a list of kit that leaves precious little more to be added.

Included is a built in TomTom satellite navigation system that displays on a big 7 inch screen, alloy wheels, rear camera, keyless entry and starting, dual zone air conditioning and auto lights and wipers. There's enough room in the rear for a couple of big men and the boot is deep and evenly spaced and there's a space saver tyre on board, not a can of potentially useless gloop.

You will hardly feel shortchanged if you opt to enter the Tivoli range at the bottom, where the SE comes with alloys, cruise control and Bluetooth (from £12,950 remember) or opt for EX trim, from £14,600 which adds dual zone climate control, leather upholstery, heated front seats and touch screen with reversing camera.

So, the Tivoli is a bargain, but its a long way from the basement.

Here is a serious contender for best value on the forecourt.

TESTED

SsangYong Tivoli ELX diesel

Engine: 113bhp diesel

Warranty: Five years, unlimited mileage

Economy: The Tivoli can do 65.7 mpg

Insurance: 18

Price: £17,250

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Will petrol become a fuel for enthusiasts in future?



There are all manner of alternative fuels being touted as the best replacement for petrol. From electric energy and hydrogen to compressed air, all seek to supply greener, cleaner power for our cars.

However, anyone writing the obituary of petrol would do well to stay their pen as reports of its demise are more than a little premature.

Depending on who you speak to and who you choose to believe, fossil fuels have a future of anywhere between 30 and 100 years.

The reasons for such a huge variation in expert estimates are down to the cost of extracting the fuel from the ground. There will come a point where accessing oil to refine into petrol and diesel will simply no longer be cost-effective on a large scale.

However, this does not mean we will see the end of petrol even then. In the short term, there will still be plenty of cars running around that need petrol for their engines, even if those engines

are assisted by a hybrid power source.

Another longer term outcome for petrol is that it will become a fuel used by enthusiasts for their cherished vehicles. It may well be much more expensive than it presently is, despite many thinking fuel is too pricey already.

Fans of the combustion engine, and all the power, noise and fun it offers, will still be drawn to petrol as the fuel of choice. Instead of running their everyday car on unleaded, they will have an up-to-date alternative fuel car and save the good stuff for the weekend when they can go cruising, racing or just having fun in their petrol-powered pet car.

Just as we see classic cars nowadays being run on petrol mixed with additives to protect elderly engines, so future drivers will regard petrol as something to use in a car that's a hobby, not a daily proposition.

Enthusiasts may also have to accept some limitations to using their petrol-fuelled fun cars. For instance the mayor of Paris has banned all cars built before 1997 from the city centre

in a bid to clear up air pollution. This could mean petrol heads being restricted by where and when they can drive, but given the passion for petrol-powered cars, it seems likely they will be allowed some freedom to enjoy their pastime.

For those who see this as ridiculous and argue it is allowing a polluting few to enjoy themselves at the expense of the many, the number of miles covered by classic car owners is small and their vehicles are generally maintained to a very high standard. The impact of a group of enthusiasts enjoying petrol-engined cars in the future will be very small.

Given the cost of petrol in such a world will be very high, owners of such cars will be unlikely to cover large distances anyway.

While the demise of petrol may have been exaggerated in recent times, it is undoubtedly set to become a less common fuel in the decades ahead. However, there will always be a place for it among enthusiasts that will see it remain for a long time to come.

Latest smart cabrio is three cars in one

By Sharon Walters

The countdown has started for the new fortwo cabrio, a particularly iconic variant of the new model series.

The open-top two-seater has its world premiere at the Frankfurt Motor Show next week and will be available for ordering from mid-November with the first models reaching dealers in February 2016.

Three cars in one: at the touch of a button the new smart cabrio is transformed from a closed two-seater into a car with a large sliding canvas sunroof, or a fully fledged cabriolet with the soft top completely open. This enables the fresh air driving experience to be adapted to the weather or the driver's mood. This flexibility offered by the "tritop" folding soft top and the removable roof bars is a special feature – and not just in this segment. At the same time, the new smart cabrio is the only true cabriolet in its class.

Customers can choose between three different colours for the "tritop" fabric soft top: blue denim, red or black. The headlining is always grey. The removable roof bars that can be stowed in a compartment in the tailgate come in the tridion colour.

When the sun peeps out from behind the clouds, smart fortwo cabrio drivers can react quickly: the soft top can be opened automatically in 12 seconds – even when driving at top speed. The top can also be opened from outside the car by remote control.

Removing the side roof bars enables a full-blown cabrio experience. The roof bars can be stowed on the inside of the tailgate. This stowage compartment in the tailgate also offers additional stowage space for small items, for example fluorescent jacket, first-aid kit or warning triangle.

With an area of 1.8 m² the "tritop" fabric soft top is approximately four percent larger than its predecessor. The outer covering is made of a particularly lightweight polyacrylic fabric and the inside features a polyester/cotton mix. There is a rubber layer in the middle. The soft top has a total thickness of 20 mm. The rear windscreen is heated and is made of glass.

The new smart fortwo cabrio is the most rigid smart cabrio ever. The torsional strength has been improved by around 15 per cent compared with the predecessor. The material mix comprises a high proportion of ultra-high strength hot-formed steels and maximum-strength multiphase steels.

'The soft top can be opened automatically in 12 seconds – even when driving at top speed.'

In addition, the cabrio has been specifically reinforced in decisive places in comparison to the coupé. The modifications include a large steel cross under the vehicle, two torsional bulkheads under the vehicle at the front and rear and an inner tube in the A-pillars made of high strength hot-formed steel.

As well as meeting the requirements of mandatory crash tests, the new smart fortwo cabrio – with a safety concept that includes the tridion safety cell typical of the brand for efficient energy absorption – also passes additional Mercedes-Benz crash tests that often have much stricter requirements. This includes the "roof-drop" test. Here the body falls at a slight angle from a height of 50 centimetres onto the roof structure and the vehicle hits one of the two A-pillars.

The new cabrio will initially be available with two state-of-the-art three-cylinder engines rated at 71 hp and 90 hp. Both engines can be combined with the five-speed manual transmission or the fully automatic twinamic dual clutch transmission.

Needless to say, the smart fortwo cabrio has the agility typical of the brand and turning manoeuvres are extremely simple.

In addition to the three lines passion, prime and proxy, customers can choose from a large range of safety and comfort features – including the new features added in the latest facelift such as smartphone integration with MirrorLink® (standard in combination with the smart Media-System) or the Urban Style package (including black wheel arch linings and lowering kit).

The high-quality interior of the smart fortwo cabrio corresponds to that of the closed variant with standard features including two sun visors with make-up mirrors, a centre console with drawer and coat hooks at the rear on the crossbar. A wind deflector is optionally available.

The interior styling is characterised by a "dynamic loop"



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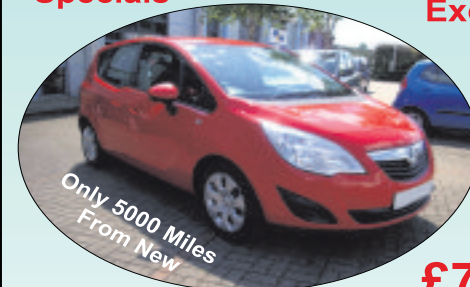
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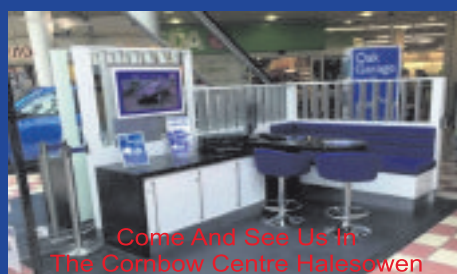
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C-Max offers most

By Ian Donaldson

Style seems to win most battles these days when a family decides more room is needed to keep the kids happy in the back of the car.

It's a victory often won by a big, tall bruiser of a car that looks ready for the urban jungle or a trip up the nearest mountain. An SUV in other words; something that adds a touch of the big outdoors to the daily grind.

But there is an alternative. It won't gather admiring glances at the school gates but it will almost certainly be cheaper to run, more practical and, if you're only moderately lucky, be much nicer to drive.

Which brings us to the latest version of the Ford Grand C-MAX, fresh from a mid-life makeover and about as trim as a sensible seven seater ever could, with Ford's handsome new grille (looking more than ever like an Aston Martin) and sharper style to the headlights, while Ford watching anoraks will spot a simpler look to the rear.

Inside, there is a hike in apparent quality of the materials you touch or look at, along with fewer switches and a big touch screen in the manner of the latest Ford Focus.

Under the bonnet the big news is the availability of a new 1.5 litre diesel engine that produces more power and fewer pollutants than the larger, 1.6 litre unit it replaces.

You can also choose from two ver-

sions of Ford's fine 1.0 litre EcoBoost petrol engine or a 2.0 litre diesel. Prices range from £20,295 to £27,615 and are £1,600 more than Ford asks for the smaller C-MAX, which looks a reasonable premium for the Grand C-MAX's third row of seats and the convenience of sliding rear doors in place of the conventionally opening pair on the 14cms (5.5 inches) shorter car.

Both models have more than 20 storage spaces scattered around the cabin, which should be quieter thanks to thicker side window glass, more absorbent seals on the tailgate and extra soundproofing under the bonnet, with extra attention paid to the diesel models.

Features

Depending on version, you will find as standard, or optional, safety features that include a blind spot information system, lane departure warning, traffic sign recognition and adaptive cruise control that can warn when you are too close to the vehicle in front.

But most Fords of recent years have stood out from the pack for the way they drive. It's not, as an engineer from a rival company once told me, that others could not make their cars nicer to drive, it's just that they had other priorities.

So good for Ford to find that the latest C-MAX and Grand C-MAX have been lightly breathed on to make them still better from behind the wheel, with gentle massaging of dampers, suspension bushes and power steering settings.

The result, with the new 118bhp die-



'Fresh from a mid-life makeover and about as trim as a sensible seven-seater ever could.'

sel engine doing the work in a £23,145 Titanium spec Grand C-MAX is a car that drives like something much smaller and less accommodating of five adults plus a couple of growing children in the third row.

It is so much removed from the rock and roll lifestyle of a typical SUV as to feel like a car from another planet. A dashboard readout of 44mpg after a brisk outing was further proof that fun and family need not be mutually exclusive.

TESTED

Ford Grand C-MAX 1.5 TDCI Titanium

Engine: 118bhp diesel

Warranty: Three years, 60,000 mileage

Economy: The Grand C-MAX can do 64.2 mpg

Insurance group: 16

Price: £23,145

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Nothing to beat the GT86

By Sharon Walters

Toyota's GT86 is a sports car that positively grows at you – not just from a lovely pair of exhausts but also from its appearance.

With traditional sports car looks, it has a long bonnet and neat short tail and rear splitter with those twin exhausts. Add to that a slightly menacing front grille and you have a bit of a monster on your hands.

There's no mistaking the intention of the GT86 – a back to basics rear-wheel drive sports car that will give you endless pleasure, even though it hasn't got the most powerful engine in its class the naturally aspirated engine reaches out to you to hit the gas and lay on the revs. The result is pure driving enjoyment. And I certainly experienced that especially on winding twisting roads where you could really appreciate that rear-wheel drive coupled with a light-weight body and plenty of feedback from the steering that make the GT86 one of the best handling sports cars around. And with the car's powerful brakes that don't snatch at all when you need them in a hurry, driving quickly (but not overly so!) means you gain confidence to push the car hard. In fact such was my enjoyment out on the open road that I'd quite like to take this out on to a track and see just how hard I can push it and still feel confident.

Inside the quality of finish is not terribly high but then you're not paying a premium for that – this car is all about the driving. The layout makes it feel like a road-going racer and the cockpit is driver-focused with in-

strumentation instinctive and functional and superb seats. GT86 has the lowest driver hip-point of any Toyota production vehicle. The seat design was honed using information gained during circuit testing at the Nürburgring to ensure the driver remains comfortable when spending long periods behind the wheel. The seatback and cushions are designed to give the best possible support under acceleration G-forces from the front, rear and sides. And the shape of the front is designed not only for comfort, but also to prevent passengers' elbows from interfering with gearshift operation.

Safety-wise you get seven airbags, stability control and a limited-slip differential (that gives better grip in corners) as standard.

Now it may be touted as a 2+2 but in reality the rear space is tiny and only really useful for storage space. Anyway, who wants to be weighed down by any more people? This isn't a car to transport the family and friends in. You do, however, get a 243 litre boot which is generous for the type of car plus with the rear seats folded down space is enough for a few days away.

I drove one of the special editions, a strictly limited one-off collection, and let me say it got me noticed with people rather than expecting a boy racer to emerge from the driver's door. Toyota has transformed a fleet of six GT86 to recreate classic liveries and retro styling details as a tribute to some of the great race and rally cars of the past 50 years. Each car is inspired by a different model. They include two sporting versions of Toyota's original sports car, the 2000GT, and Ove Andersson's 1970s Celica 1600GT rally car – the machine that helped inspire Toyota to launch a full international motorsports programme. The IMSA GTU Celica that raced in North America in



'There's no mistaking the intention of the GT86 – a back to basics rear-wheel drive sports car that will give you endless pleasure.'

the 1980s, the World Rally Championship Celica GT-Four and the Esso Ultron Tiger Supra from the All-Japan Grand Touring Car Championship are also celebrated.

Vehicle vinyl specialist Motor Mode has reproduced key elements from the original liveries in the right proportions for the GT86. New springs bring the cars' ride height down by 40mm and Rota has provided new wheels in different finishes to capture the retro look. A new Milltek Sport stainless steel exhaust system provides the finishing visual and aural flourish.

My 'tribute' GT86 was the Castrol Toyota Celica GT-Four with red and green Castrol livery. This Group A Toyota made its World Rally Championship debut in 1994 and went on to claim seven podium finishes in seven events entered during the 1995 season, including victory for Didier Auriol in the Tour de Corse. I loved it.

But back to the 'ordinary' GT86. If you're tempted it won't break the bank with prices starting from less than £23,000 and it does come with Toyota's five-year warranty. I don't think there's anything to beat it.

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Even better performance and running costs down

By James Parker

The Dacia Duster is now even more 'shockingly affordable' to run with the introduction of a brand new EU6-compliant 1.6 16V 115 petrol engine which improves performance, reduces fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, significantly reduces running costs and improves the towing capacity of 4x2 models. It replaces the previous 1.6 16V 105 engine.

With its arrival, Dacia now offers a greater number of petrol-engined models in the Duster line-up. Mid-range Ambiance 4x2 and 4x4 versions have been added, giving a more progressive and logical product line. Previously, only entry-level Access models were offered with a petrol engine. The new Ambiance versions are priced at £10,495 (4x2) and £12,495 (4x4). The new petrol engine is also fitted to Access versions, which are priced at £9,495 (4x2) and £11,495 (4x4).

There are also reductions in fuel consumption and emissions for Duster models powered by the dCi 110 turbodiesel engine, which now meets EU6 emissions standards. As with the new petrol engine, this has the effect of lowering the VED band of every model.

There are also improvements to the fuel economy and emissions of most models in the Sandero family and the Logan MCV with the adoption of EU6 engines.

The 115hp 1.6-litre 16-valve engine is a brand new unit, not simply an EU6 version of the petrol engine previously fitted to the Duster. It develops 10hp more than its predecessor at 5,500rpm and has an extra 8Nm of torque – now 156Nm at 4,000rpm. This trims the 0-62mph acceleration time of 4x2 versions from 11.5 to 11 seconds, while for 4x4 models the reduction is 0.8 seconds to 12 seconds. The top speeds rise by 1mph and 5mph respectively.

By far the greatest gains are in fuel efficiency and running costs, however. For 4x4 versions, CO2 emissions tumble by 30g/km to 155g/km, while NEDC fuel consumption has been reduced by 6.2mpg and is now 41.5mpg. This is sufficient to slash the annual VED cost by £170 to £180. There are substantial gains with 4x2 models, too: CO2 falls by 20g/km to 145g/km, fuel economy improves by 4.3mpg to 44.1mpg and the yearly VED charge is £35 less at £145. The increase in power and torque also raises the towing capacity of 4x2 versions from 1,200 to 1,500kg so that it is now on a par with that of the 4x4 versions. Benefit-in-kind (BIK) taxation is four bands lower with all-wheel drive and two bands lower with front-wheel drive.

The new engine is a 1,598cc unit with multi-point fuel injection, driving through a five-speed manual gearbox in 4x2 models and a six-speed manual in the 4x4s. Engine stop and start is standard.

Efficiency

The advent of EU6 emissions controls also brings improvements in the fuel efficiency and running costs of Duster models powered by the 1.5-litre dCi 110 turbodiesel engine, which now has 20Nm more torque at 260Nm.

NEDC combined fuel consumption is now 64.2mpg (-7.7mpg) in 4x2 models and 60.1mpg (-6.8mpg) in 4x4s; CO2 emissions are down to 115g/km (-15g/km) and 123g/km (-12g/km) respectively; and every model is one band lower in the VED and BIK scales.

With the introduction of petrol-engined Ambiance models for the first time, Dacia now offers 10 versions of the Duster in a more progressive and logical range.

There are two entry-level Access models (4x2 and 4x4), both powered by the new 1.6 16V 115 engine; mid-range Ambiance trim is available with both engines and both drive-lines; and at the top of the range there are Lauréate and Lauréate Prime versions, all diesel, in 4x2 and 4x4 formats.

EU6 engines also bring greater efficiency and lower running costs to Dacia's other models in the UK – the Sandero, Sandero Stepway and Logan MCV.

The 1.2-litre 16V 75 engine in the Sandero and Logan MCV now attracts zero VED (previously £130) with a reduction in CO2 emissions from 135g/km to 130g/km. The power output is 73hp and the 107Nm of torque now peaks at a much lower 4,250rpm, improving performance. Fuel economy is unchanged at 48.7mpg.

With the 0.9-litre TCe 90 engine available in all three models, torque has risen from 135Nm to 140Nm, and stop and start is now standard. CO2 emissions are down by 7g/km to 109g/km in the Sandero and Logan MCV, and by 9g/km to 115g/km in the Stepway, while the respective fuel economy improvements are 1.2mpg to 57.7mpg, and 3.1mpg to 55.4mpg.

All three cars are also available with the popular 1.5 dCi 90, and this also needs less fuel and produces lower emissions with the switch to EU6 controls. For the Sandero and Logan MCV, economy improves from 74.3mpg to 80.7mpg, with CO2 emissions down from 99g/km to 90g/km; in the Stepway economy goes up from 70.6mpg to 74.3mpg, with CO2 down from 105g/km to 98g/km.

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High-class cabin for stylish new Kia Optima

The all-new Kia Optima will be unveiled in European specification at the Frankfurt International Motor Show on September 15.

The fourth-generation Optima, which will go on sale across Europe in Q4 2015, has a modern, new exterior, a bold interior design with more space for all occupants, an array of new technologies and a wide choice of efficient powertrains.

The new model will offer greater refinement and improved ride and handling over the outgoing model, while retaining the sporty image that has helped Optima become one of Kia's best-selling models worldwide.

The Kia Optima plays an important role in the Kia Motors Europe product line-up, introducing the brand to an increasing number of new customers. Since the third-generation model launched in 2011, with its distinctive look, high-quality interior and high-tech image, the Optima has offered buyers something fresh and different in the D-segment.

The all-new Optima's evolutionary new look was designed to be functional and sporty, with exterior dimensions that are marginally longer, taller and wider. These changes enable a roomier and more comfortable cabin, with more head-, shoulder- and rear-seat leg-room and greater cargo capacity. From a styling perspective, the new dimensions afforded Kia's designers the chance to introduce a more swept-back, dynamic shape.

This attractive new design makes the fourth-generation model the most aerodynamic Optima to date, with drag reduced from 0.3 to 0.29 Cd. The all-new Optima will be available in Europe in a choice of nine paint colours, and will ride on alloy wheels ranging from 16- to 18 inches in diameter.

The material quality of the all-new Optima's cabin is significantly improved over the outgoing model, with a far higher proportion of soft-touch materials, as well as cloth and leather trim in natural tones. Tasteful metallic accents throughout the cabin add a higher quality ambience to the interior.

The larger interior and exterior dimensions of the fourth-generation Optima ensure that the all-new model is the most practical, spacious and comfortable. Cargo space has grown from 505 to 510 litres (VDA), with the under-floor storage area and a wider boot opening adding greater practicality.

Standards

The all-new Optima features a uniquely engineered body which combines more high-strength materials than ever before, resulting in even higher standards of crash safety. While passive safety is improved, the new model is also equipped with a series of high-tech active and autonomous safety features, and Kia's engineers have targeted a five-star Euro NCAP safety rating throughout the Optima's development programme.

Kia's vehicle stability management is fitted as standard, ensuring stability under braking and cornering by controlling the car's electronic stability control and electric motor-driven power steering if it detects a loss of traction. The Optima is available with a wide range of optional active hazard-avoidance technologies, depending on market.

Improving ride and handling was a top priority for Kia's dynamic development teams, with a focus on delivering the ride comfort and stability customers expect from a D-segment sedan, while achieving the level of agility promised by the car's sportier appearance. With a lighter, stiffer chassis, the suspension is better able to isolate vibrations and bumps from poor road surfaces, while a series of upgrades to the suspension set-up helps to blend agile handling with an improvement in ride comfort.

The all-new Optima debuts a number of new, advanced on-board technologies to improve usability, comfort and convenience. The new technologies featured make it the one of the most innovative cars in the D-segment. The touchscreen infotainment system is paired with a six-speaker audio system as standard. A powerful Harman Kardon Premium Sound system, featuring 10 speakers, an external amplifier and Clari-Fi MP3 restoration technology, is also available as an option.

A first for any car in the D-segment, the all-new Optima will be available with a new wireless charger for mobile devices, allowing the new model to meet the increasing demand from car buyers – particularly in this class – for new convenience technologies. The all-new Optima will be available with a range of engines when it goes on sale across Europe later this year, striking a balance between performance and efficiency. Driving the front wheels, every engine in the range is compliant with the latest Euro 6 emission standard, resulting in cleaner emissions. The Optima is popular among both private and fleet buyers, and the fourth-generation model offers the choice of either a diesel or petrol engine, each engineered to meet the varying needs of all types of customers.

The all-new Kia Optima will offer the company's unique seven-year, 150,000km warranty as standard.



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Micra loads up on technology

By Sharon Walters

Nissan is expanding its value-packed Micra range with a new equipment-laden N-TEC model. Positioned between the existing Acenta and Tekna models, the new Micra N-TEC offers buyers the chance to experience some of Nissan's acclaimed technology features at a great price.

Priced from £12,400 and available to order now, the new Micra N-TEC is available with the same advanced engine line-up as other models in the range.

That means customers can choose between the entry-level 1.2-litre petrol engine that produces 80PS, or the supercharged 1.2-litre DIG-S unit that develops 98PS. The former is available with Nissan's smooth CVT automatic transmission as an option.

The new Micra N-TEC's generous equipment list includes the latest-generation NissanConnect system.

Accessed via a 5.8-inch colour touchscreen display, the N-TEC's NissanConnect system includes satellite navigation and smartphone integration.

It also comes with advanced features such as Google Send-To-Car technology, which allows an owner to plan a journey on their PC or tablet at home or in the office and then send the instructions to the car ahead of the journey.

And the gadget-count doesn't end there. The Micra n-tec's equipment list also includes Rear Parking Sensors and Parking Slot Measurement. These two features work together to help drivers find the perfect parking space.



Parking Slot Measurement lives up to its name by measuring parking slots and alerting the driver via a dashboard display as to whether New Micra can be safely parked in the space or not.

The system can even be adjusted to account for the driver's skill – amateur, normal or expert.

Other technologies fitted as standard to the new Micra N-TEC include

automatic climate control, rain sensing windscreen wipers and automatic headlights.

The Micra N-TEC also looks the part thanks to a host of premium styling features

that include 16-inch alloy wheels, front fog lamps and its rear privacy glass.

Silver satin door mirrors and door handles complete the exterior design

package. Inside, the N-TEC stands out from the crowd with a centre console finished in gloss black and distinctive blue stitching on the trim and leather-covered steering wheel.

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Capital Mobility-Bilston MEGA MOBILITY SALE WHEELCHAIRS FROM £99. SCOOTERS FROM £250. RISER RECLINER CHAIRS FROM £499. ROLLATORS FROM £99. LOTS MORE OFFERS: 01902 409929 www.capitalmobility.co.uk

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 25019 / 07831 246292

LADIES ELECTRIC Shopping bike, 3 years old (done less than 50 miles due to surgery) very good condition £375 ovno. Rugeley 01889 578243.

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holidays

holiday homes

IDEAL FIRST CARAVAN immaculate condition, good spec, 2 bed, 6 berth, 4 sale on 5' park, 5 min to beach, stunning scenery, Wifi & Gym. Call 01970620450

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME For sale on 5' park. Fishing lake, bar, restaurant. Child and pet friendly 20 acres walking woodland. £19,995 inc site fees 01568 708326.

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BURNHAM-ON-SEA Self Catering Holiday Apartments Disabled Facilities Pet Friendly

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what's on

antique fairs

BOOK FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sunday, 20th Sept, Est 1979. Waverley, 0121 550 4123. Next antique/collect fair, Sunday 4th Sep (also Bromsgrove every Friday)

markets

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OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Bank's Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 975701 All hard standing

3

Home & Services

furniture

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OPEN SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM
SAVE 50% DIRECT FROM FACTORY

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BFC FACTORY OUTLET
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0121 557 6885
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OAK KITCHEN UNITS 18 oak fronted units, Bosch extractor fan, Bosch gas hob, Franke 1 1/2 bowl sink and tap, complete with worktops, fab condition, must be seen.

01562 755608.

t.v. / home entertainment

sales

SAMSUNG 40ins full HD 3D LCD TV, with smart, good, £120. Telephone 07891 736977.

DOUBLE DIVAN BED Base and deep quilted luxury mattress, new, in wrapper, bargain, can deliver. £100. 07972 525078.

LICHFIELD EDITION dining table and four chairs. Was £379 new, sell £125. Excellent condition. 07711 136604. Dudley.

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£495

07821 829874

household appliances

RANGEMASTER COOKER 110 large, gas / electric, 2 ovens, 1 grill, 5 gas hobs, wok burner, ceramic hob, reconditioned, beautiful condition, new £1400. Selling £775 ono. 07756 707220.

in your garden

A ABSOLUTE beautiful cultivated lawn turf, grown locally, next day delivery from £1.50 per roll. 01902 453794 / 07710 000931

A BARGAIN AT BUSHBURY FENCING/GATES LTD. Supply/fit. WV10 9QQ. Call 07816 863810.

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply/fit. Free Quotes: 31 Bank St. WV10 9DU. 01902 723910

RYOBI ELECTRIC pole hedge trimmer, little use, as new, £50. 01743 461261.

items for sale

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items wanted

WANTED ANY OLD TOOLS CASH PAID Hand tools, anything considered. 01543 452491 / 07539 340307

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Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING 01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS Any gauge or age Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On. 0121 532 2544/07891 713547. thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy - big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED COOKERS, fridges, washers, must be good, clean condition and working. 07944 351351.

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Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
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Central Heating fitted, combi boiler and radiators £2200. Boiler changes from £1250 or £100 deposit and £20 per week. Extra radiators... 7 years warranty available. 75 per day or priced work. Inc bathrooms & soil pipes.
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Single items, Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
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Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)
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5 Business & Farming

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01922 512935.

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full time - general

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An equal opportunities employer, seeks to appoint a:
Business Development Manager
(Up to £37,000 p.a., 37 hours p.w.)
We are seeking an ambitious individual for the exciting new role of Business Development Manager.
The role will involve securing our financial sustainability through pursuit of income generation opportunities and asset management. The ideal candidate will have:
• A proven ability to innovate, identify and secure business development opportunities using strong negotiation and closing skills.
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Closing date: 5pm, Thursday 24 September 2015
Interview date: Tuesday 6 October 2015
Previous applicants need not apply
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we can buy your house in 2 days

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In a mess? talk in confidence we can help

WE PAY MORE ANY AREA ANY CONDITION

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- No Fees*
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We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid

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I pay 100% of purchase price

Call now for the best price on your house

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Local Investor pays you more
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CALL PENNY for TOP PRICES NOW

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PICK UP the phone CALL NOW

Best Price Sam

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Call today for a best price

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6 Property

properties wanted

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A BEAT ALL CASH DEAL
We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626.

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Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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LEXUS IS 220 DIESEL SE 2006, silver, 2 keys, cream leather, aircon, electric/ heated seats, 2 owners, 60K, full MoT, history, new tyres, wheels refurbished, perfect, any trial. £4,350 ono. 07973 823945.

MERCEDES SLK 230 2000, 150,000 miles, silver, Private Reg. Plate worth a minimum of £1,000. £2,395. 07779 500658.

PEUGEOT 307 SW, 06, 66,250 miles, Diesel, 8 months MoT. Service April 15, 1 previous owner. £2,300. o.n.o. 01384 741016.

PEUGEOT PARTNER Teepee Outdoor HDI, 1.56, 2011, 5dr MPV, MoT, Economical, 5 seats, 49,500 miles. £6,995. 07501 432109.

TOYOTA AYGO Ice, 2012, white, 3dr, 26,000 miles, FSH, A/C, alloys, Toyota warranty till 2017, Bargain £4,000. K-windford 07775 125651.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, 5dr, 2007, 44,000 miles, black, immaculate condition. £3,800. 01746 765183.

VW POLO 1.9TDI 100 SPORT 06 reg, black, MoT Mar 2016, 79,000 miles, coilovers all round, Toyo Proxes all round, practically brand new, immaculate condition. £4,250 ono. Daniel 07711 220291.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CHEVROLET KALOS 2005, met blue, 5-dr, 2 lady owners, long MoT, FSH, EW, EM, 58k, very good condition. £1,150 ono. 01384 936105.

CITROEN C4 VTS, 2.0, 3dr, 06 Reg., petrol, silver, 11 months MoT, nice condition inside and out, £1,295. 07787 410300

DAEWOO TACUMA SX 2004, manual, 1600cc, long MoT, low mileage, service history, very clean in/out. £495. 07785 898750.

FIAT PUNTO 60, Blue, T reg, Excellent runner. Sunroof, power steering, radio, MoT Dec 15. Serviced regularly. £450. 07775 268149.

FORD FIESTA FINESSE 1.3 5-dr, 2002, in EM, 58k, MoT, stunning condition, only £1,095. 07804 631294.

FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC DIESEL, 2005, MoT March 2016, 89,000 miles, blue, 1 owner, FSH, £1,250. o.n.o. 07866 161574.

FORD KA 2005 reg, red, 54k, two owners, long MoT, £1,350. o.n.o. 07939 483291.

HONDA PRELUDE 2.0 1999, 62,000 miles, black, ABS, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air-con, alarm, long MoT, central locking, PAS, sunroof, Alloys, Stereo. £1,350. o.n.o. Telephone 07910 535452.

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Classified Ads

JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0 V6 SE, 51 reg, 11 months MoT, fish, good looking motor. £1,000 no offers. 01902 785453 (Whampton).

MAZDA PREMACY Atlantis, 2001, 2 reg, 12 months MoT, AC, pas, EW, towbar, excellent condition, £400. 07908 134383.

MERCEDES CLK COUPE 2.0, 2-dr, 1 reg, £245 o.n.o. Telephone 07902 387527.

MITSUBISHI SHOGUN SWB, N reg, 2,5TD, No MoT. Good engine and gear box £375 o.n.o. 07490 087526.

NISSAN MICRA 1240CC, 2003, full MoT, new shape, 3dr, gold with beige interior, beautiful condition, only 3 owners, fish, spare key and books, £975 ono. 01902 753645 or 07800 637961.

PEUGEOT 206 2001, 101,000 miles, one careful lady owner, MoT May 16, £780. 01384 221449.

PEUGEOT 307SE HDI, 2004, 86,724 miles, grey, electric windows, electric mirrors, air-con, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, PAS, Diesel, alloys, stereo, CD, £1,450. o.n.o. Telephone 01384 270971.

RENAULT MEGANE RT SPORT ALIZE, £4,200, 5dr hatch, MoT June 16, met grey, e/w, s/r, cl, a/c, c/radio, £620 ono. 07739 837137.

RENAULT SCENIC Dynamique 1.6, 05 reg, 10k, met gold, 5dr hatch, 2 owners, MoT April 2016, CD, CL, alarm, AC, £1,250. 07954 119531.

ROVER 45 51 plate, diesel, 5 dr hatch, 80,000, full MoT central locking, Very good condition, £750 ono. 07864 842 076.

VAUXHALL CORSA Twinport 1.2, 05 reg, 5 dr hatch, MoT March 16, very clean inside and out. £1,595 ono. 01902 829438.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Elegance 2.0 DTI, 2003, 12 months MoT, EW, towbar, very good condition, £1,150. 07707 012972 after 6pm.

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VW SCIROCCO MK2, automatic, 1987, low mileage, good running order, £400. Please call 01384 631833.

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NISSAN VANETTE, 1998, for sale spares or repair, 2.3 diesel, 80k, £275 ono. 07528 618499.

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motorbikes

KAWASAKI ZRX1200S Very sad sale of my baby. Showroom condition, only 927 miles, 02 plate, absolutely immaculate. £4,250 ono. 01299 210602

ROYAL ENFIELD 350cc, bullet, 1985 full MoT, black, looks, rides beautifully, maintained, ride away, £950 ono. 07966 728521.

WE BUY BIKES immaculate, as new, garaged, no running. Cash paid. Peter All Bikes, 01902 312939 bikessalesparcs@gmail.com

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10 Personal

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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box 418117

JULES, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box 366019

HEATHER, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419031

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297

PAULINE, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418925

POLLY, 36yrs, cuddly, curvy with fantastic personality, works from home so has time on her hands. Text only to Mailbox No: 4068850

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572

KERRY Ann, 39yrs hairdresser, loves to run her fingers through hair. Chaps 30+ pls text, no young lads pls. Text only to Mailbox No: 4155057

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845

LOOKING for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me looking for some extra fun in their life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418843

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making Friends

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

TALL dark, attractive white male, 57, seeks attractive, Asian/black female for discreet, daytime fun. 20-45 ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417483

PHILLIP, retired bank manager, 62yrs, seeks young attractive lady, single mums welcome. Text only to Mailbox No: 4123774

TACTILE, romantic guy, height 5'11in, loves good food and drinking in my out, dancing, music, conversation and cuddles. Ready for love. Text only to Mailbox No: 4893329

TALL attractive professional male, 50, GSOH, looking for some fun adventure and sparkle. Tel. N. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418951

MALE seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695

COLIN, 48, seeks large cuddly lady between 45-55 for LTR, must like hugs, kisses, cuddles and spending hours. Text only to Mailbox No: 4906088

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, drinking likes in, out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

STEVE young 40, looking for uncomplicated adult fun with any age race female ACA. Text only to Mailbox No: 4880449

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MALE, 63, caring, easygoing, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463

MALE 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148

MALE 60, N/S, average looks, black hair, likes meals out, seeks female, 50-70, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383425

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809

6FT black male, medium-well built, attractive, friendly, outgoing, seeks slim, attractive female, 30-45 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 334003

SLIM attractive man, 52, caring, GSOH, WLTM lady for friendship. Please reply and claim my last RoLo. Text only to Mailbox No: 4172082

SHAUN, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783

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PLUS you can also listen to other members greetings on this number.

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Pierpoint put Glassboys into the next round of cup

Tivdale 0 Stourbridge 1
GARY Hackett saw his side safely through and they could have possibly won by more after hitting the woodwork twice.

He said: "It would be very nice to get a home draw after so many away ties in succession but I am just happy to be in the hat after what I thought was a good performance away from home."

"I think 1-0 flattered them a bit after we hit the bar and the post and had a few cleared off the line but credit to Tivdale, they had a chance right at the end when Lewis Solly had to make a save."

"There will probably be some shocks in the FA Cup this season as always but I don't think Tivdale came close to providing one against us and I was pleased with the discipline of the players."

The winner came on 28 minutes when Leon Broadhurst's corner evaded everyone other than the unmarked Pierpoint at the back post and he swept the ball home.

It was the visitors who did all the early running and had their first chance on seven minutes when a Drew Canavan free kick was turned around the post by Tivdale keeper Chris Jay.

From the resulting corner Karl Hawley headed over the bar. In the opening exchanges it was Stourbridge that had plenty of the possession but they never really threatened the home goal until the 24th minute when a Chris Lait cross came shot or shot come cross sailed over Jay's cross bar.

After the goal again there was a period of play when the visitors dominated possession but could not add to their score.

Cradley show why they are top of table

Cradley Town 3 Tipton Town 0
TABLE-WISE, top versus bottom, this West Midlands Premier fixture went with the form book.

It proved another step too far for the young Tipton Town side, as their more experienced opponents cantered home in style.

Tipton's youngsters did well to hold Cradley to a single goal in the first half, Scott Stevenson's rocket too good for Josh Morgan in the visitors' goal. The young keeper went on to make several splendid saves in his worthy effort to keep his side in contention.

But Cradley's strength and experience really told after the break as they wrapped up the points through a Will Tibbetts header on 56 minutes and a quite brilliant strike by Adam Meacham 12 minutes from time.

Gornal girls get goals galore



One of the goalscorers Dionne McKee

Coleshill 0 Gornal 15
NEWLY formed Gornal faced the new side Coleshill and both teams started well.

Gornal had several opportunities but missed the target on each occasion but it was only a question of time.

Keeper Sam Brough's long clearance found Sarah Hammil Moss whose pass found Gemma Hammil Moss and her powerful shot left the keeper helpless as the ball crossed the line, this action sparked the

whole Gornal side. Great wing work by Chelsea Fellows set up Dionne McKee's first goal, Charley Brookes got in on the act and set up McKee's second. Girl of the Match Beth Arrowsmith scored from 30 yards.

Debutant Lauren Keen's first touch from the subs bench was a score from 20 yards into the top corner.

After Half time Gornal were on fire and hungry for more and scored another 10 goals, McKee got her hat-trick, Keen scored another four,

Kate Moore scored with a skilful looping shot from 25 yards.

Arrowsmith finished her four goal run with a well-taken penalty. Goal of the game came when left back Sophie Lewis passed the ball to Hammil Moss who found Moore then to Arrowsmith who slotted to Lewis who was on the run and who coolly slotted the ball home.

The strikers and midfielders got the glory but all credit to the defence and goalkeeper who kept a clean sheet.

Confident Old Hales side take the points

Syston 13 Old Hales 31
OLD Hales travelled to Syston this week, both teams with much-deserved confidence following successful starts to their campaigns.

Straight from the off, Max Macfarlane set the standard with a devastating break from his own half into Syston's 22.

Two quick phases orchestrated by Dave Hadkiss put Luke Smith in the corner for a try. Chris Hooper missed the conversion.

A slick pass from Dave Hadkiss put Luke Smith in the corner for his second try, again the conversion was missed. Syston forced a penalty and decided to take the points. There was a spell of Syston possession and a well-deserved converted try with 12 minutes left of the half. Syston continued to add pressure with their kicking game forcing a penalty, taking the points and taking the lead. Lawrence Breeze and Tom King took control to mount a quick response with strong powerful runs into the Syston 22 from the restart.

Party

Peter Fitzgerald joined the party and drove hard into the Syston defence scoring a try under the posts.

Chris Hooper, finding his focus and converting just before half time. Talisman, Dave Hadkiss, drummed up the phases supplying Max Macfarlane for his first try in an Old Hales shirt. Converted by Hooper. Driving Syston deep into their 22. Three unforgiving scrums from the Old Hales pack, five yards from the try line, gave Owen Jones the platform to pick up from the base to score a converted try.

With 20 minutes left to play a young Syston team refused to lie down for the rest of the game. Old Hales calmed a second bonus score win. Old Hales play their first home game of the season this Saturday against Old Northamptonians at 3pm.

Old Hales 2nds 26 Syston 2nds 5

From the outset it was clear the two teams were well-matched, with the exception of the set piece scrum which Old Hales controlled all game.

The first 20 minutes were closely fought, with Hales' open side Sol Rogers making some bone crunching tackles. The first score came after 23 minutes through No.8 Alex Gordon

Jordanne on top of the world



Jordanne Whiley sets up a cracking forehand during her final victory

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley put friendship to one side to make history by becoming the first British woman to win a Grand Slam wheelchair tennis title.

The British No.1 defeated Japan's Yui Kamiji, her doubles partner, 6-4 0-6 6-1 to clinch the US Open title at Flushing Meadow on Sunday night.

Whiley admitted it was strange going up against Kamiji, with

whom she has won six Grand Slam doubles titles.

"It really hasn't sunk in that I've done it," said Whiley. "I felt bad seeing her crying at the end but that's tennis and I knew I could win it."

In a game of fluctuating fortunes, Whiley saw an early break advantage disappear in the first set, only to regroup and take the last two games to seize the initiative.

Kamiji then raced through the second set but Whiley returned from a comfort break before the final set with a renewed focus and stormed into a 5-0 lead.

Whiley then had her first five match points before Kamiji pulled a game back, but another thrilling final game saw the Brit clinch a famous victory on her ninth championship point. The 23-year-old is now No.4 in the world.

Heathens' campaign ends on a high note

CRADLEY defied their injury crisis to end their National League campaign on a high with a dramatic 40-35 win at Stoke.

The Heathens were forced to take on the Potters with only five riders having seen Ellis Perks (hand) and Tyler Govier (ankle) both crash out of their clash with Coventry earlier in the day.

Although they drafted in Darryl Ritchings as a guest, they were unable to find a replacement for Govier at short notice - and when Michael Neale was forced to pull out due to a lack of equipment following an earlier crash they were reduced to just four riders.

Matt Williamson and Arron Mogridge plus guesting duo Ben Morley and Ritchings nonetheless fought tirelessly to give them a five-point lead before a power failure saw the meeting called to a halt after 13 heats.

Earlier Cradley pulled off a last-gasp 5-1 to secure a consolation league point from their 48-44 defeat at Coventry.

Skipper Williamson combined with star guest Ben Morley in the final race after keeping them in the hunt two heats earlier. Williamson was in stunning form, notching 16 points.

said: "We wanted to win the match obviously but to lose both Ellis and Tyler to injury during the meeting and Mike Neale suffering bike problems we pulled together in those two heats and got the job done."

COVENTRY 48: Darryl Ritchings 11, Martin Knuckey 8, Conor Dwyer 7+2, Rob Shuttleworth 7, Mark Baseby 6+3, Danny Ayres 5+1, Jamie Halder 3.

CRADLEY 44: Matt Williamson 16+1, Ben Morley 10, Ellis Perks 7, Arron Mogridge 6+1, Tyler Govier 3, Michael Neale 2, Nathan Greaves r/r.

Baggies fans told to move on from Saido

FORMER Albion star Peter Odemwingie believes Baggies fans must put the Saido Berahino saga behind them and support their want-away striker - for the good of the club.

Odemwingie also lifted the lid on his own collapsed move to Queens Park Rangers from Albion two years ago and his own unhappiness with chairman Jeremy Peace over the wrangle which left him as target for fans' abuse.

Odemwingie - who famously drove to QPR on deadline day in January 2013 to try and push through a move - said: "There's a difference in playing for Jeremy Peace and playing for West Bromwich Albion."

"The fans are the most important people."

"They always will be" Chairmen come and go, players come and go ... he is just a young boy. .

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Sport

Old Hales show
their confidence

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Jordanne makes
tennis history

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Heathens 'can grab a cup double'

STAND-IN skipper Matt Williamson insists Cradley have what it takes to win a cup double before the end of October.

The Heathens have finished third in the National League after a brilliant win at Stoke on Sunday but now face semi-finals in the Gold Cup and Knockout Cup.

They go up against league champions Birmingham at Perry Barr next Wednesday in the home leg of their Gold Cup clash with a bumper crowd expected.

And they will face King's Lynn in the Knockout Cup semi-finals next month.

Said Williamson: "Our season is far from over, we still have it all to race for."

"It was an amazing effort at the weekend to pick up four points from two away meetings and we've finished third which is a respectable effort."

"But we still have the opportunity to push hard for cup double and I see no reason why we cannot achieve that."

"Will Pottinger did a great job with his tactics at the weekend and if we can stick together and do the job we know we're capable of then we can win things."

"It promises to be an exciting end to the season but I certainly feel we have it in us to win the cups."

Williamson returned to top form at Coventry and Stoke at the weekend and feels he has found where the problem was.

"It's been a good season but since having that big crash for Worthington a couple of weeks ago I've struggled slightly, but when I was warming the bikes up at Coventry I had a brainwave and figured out what the problem was."

"It seems I got to the bottom of the issue, I had much more speed and I was back to my best."

"We've still got some big meetings left over the rest of the season."

Kenny's challenge to McDonald to win his team spot back

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett challenged midfielder Kevin McDonald to win his place back after surprisingly dropping the Scot for Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Bolton.

McDonald travelled north to the Macron Stadium but wasn't even named as a substitute, with George Saville preferred on the bench.

The 26-year-old is out of contract next summer and has publicly expressed his dissatisfaction about the offer Wolves have put on the table. It led to the 'unsettled' midfielder being left out of a pre-season game at Burton.

However, Jackett insisted McDonald was left out purely on his recent form.

"I decided to play only two of the three midfield players I've been playing," Jackett said. "With the return to fitness of Wallace, Nathan Byrne coming into the group, I went for two of the three midfield players and then genuine wide players."

"It's been a tough period for Kevin, with those very well-publicised contract negotiations. It was unfortunately him that was left out on the form of Conor Coady and David Edwards."

Griffiths and Collins book Yeltz place

**FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round
Halesowen Town 2 Mickleover Sports 1**
TWO stunning goals from Aaron Griffiths and substitute Connor Collins booked Halesowen's FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round place.

Mickleover enjoyed the better of early play as Gary Ricketts lofted over the bar and Anthony Griffiths Junior curled a 31st minute free-kick just wide.

But Halesowen took command before the interval and went close when Keyon Refell's low shot struck the post.

Griffiths then put Halesowen ahead after 43

Football

minutes with a golden 30-yard volley into the middle of goal in a worthy candidate for the goal of the season.

At the start of the second period Greg Pearson missed a perfect chance to put the tie to bed when clear of the Mickleover goal.

Mickleover's search for an equaliser encountered a well-marshalled home defence, although Ricketts fired wide and home goalkeeper Dan Platt grabbed the ball following a goal-line clearance before also collecting from key Mickleover

substitute Anthony O'Neil Dwyer.

O'Neil-Dwyer claimed Mickleover's 80th minute equaliser with a low shot after the visitors launched a series of long throw ins and O'Neil-Dwyer then fired inches over the bar with the home goal under some siege.

But with the tie looking all set for a replay, Collins smashed home Halesowen's last-gasp 89th minute winner from 15 yards after Refell chased a long ball to pressurise Jake Bennett and the visiting defence.

Halesowen Town: Platt; Connolly (Gueyes 87), Griffiths, Denny (c), Hull, Morrison, Charlton, Westwood, Pearson (Collins 68), Refell, Hales.

STILL GRIM UP NORTH WOLVES

Bolton 2 Wolves 1
THERE is a lot wrong with Wolves at the moment.

Yet this result should not have come as the slightest of surprises, given their quite ridiculous record at the Reebok/Macron Stadium.

In 10 league visits since Bolton left Burnden Park in 1997, Wolves have yet to win in this part of Lancashire, with a Robbie Keane-inspired (yes it was that long ago) victory in the FA Cup a break from the status quo.

And with Bolton having merely scored a solitary goal in their seven matches so far this season, Wolves supporters of a certain vintage knew exactly what was coming.

The fact the home team's goals were handed to them on a plate by naive defensive mistakes was also not the biggest of shocks.

Wolves' inadequacies are becoming easier to foresee, and that is of huge concern to a head coach whose decision-making is facing more scrutiny than at any other time in his tenure.

Formula

Jackett is arguably trying too hard to find that winning formula.

He took Charlton's winning team and made three changes, one enforced by Nouha Dicko's unfortunate absence, the other two of the head-scratching variety.

Carl Ikeme was unceremoniously jettisoned yet again, despite his impressive and confidence-boosting form for Nigeria, while Kevin McDonald was nowhere to be seen, left off the bench despite having travelled with the squad. One of his changes paid off, with Emiliano Martinez producing his best Wolves performance.

The other, plumping for David Edwards in McDonald's place, did not. Edwards was surprisingly poor and Wolves were outplayed in midfield, old-boy Mark Davies giving the kind of magical all-action display he hinted at but never delivered at Molineux.

Through James Henry, Benik Afobe and Adam le Fondre, Wolves possessed enough quality to carve out a number of chances, and on another day, with a lot of luck, a point would have been theirs.

Jed Wallace, too, showed promise despite a lack



Wolves' Benik Afobe is kept under close supervision by Bolton's Derik Osede

of fitness, and Wolves played some good football and showed good spirit late on, when other teams would have waned. But Bolton created the better opportunities and were good value for their first victory of the season.

The worry for Wolves is that, while their attacking prowess will grow when Jackett adds a loan striker and gets closer to finding the elusive midfield formula, there is little he can do about the defence.

He has been handed a very raw deal by the increasingly-baffling sale of Richard Stearman and, as much as he can toe the party line about promising youngsters, Jackett knows the mis-

takes displayed here will continue. Danny Bath will return soon, but until he does Jackett still only has five senior defenders to choose from, and to call Dominic Iorfa, Ethan Ebanks-Landell and Kortney Hause senior is pushing it somewhat.

The average age of the back five here was 23. Protected primarily by 22-year-old Conor Coady. All good players, all potentially very good players.

But potential does not equal promotion.

And as Jackett continually admits, errors will happen when you have young players. He called them naive after this defeat, and it is hard to envisage that being eradicated any time soon.

DK athletes take to lake run in Wales

THE majority of Dudley Kingswinford Running Club travelled to mid Wales for the Lake Vnwy Half Marathon at the weekend and one representative made their way to Newcastle for the Great North Run.

In Wales DK had 28 joining a field approaching 1,400 runners for a lap of the lake. For a course that was advertised as flat and fast there were plenty of rolling inclines to negotiate over the 13.1 mile circuit, inclines that sapped the strength of those pushing hard to record fast times.

James Wright was first back for the hoops in 50th place in 1.22.38 followed by Dave Norman in 68th in 1.25.13, Mark Judge in 1.34.00 taking 188th place; Richard Tonks in 203rd with 1.34.54, Jay Higgs was 266th in 1.38.22 and Mark Homer was 291st in 1.40.09.

Sandra Brain finished in 1.42.24, Andy Litchfield in 1.42.47, John Andrews in 1.43.40, Julie Allen in 1.49.01, Natalie Seex and Peter Seex finished together, both recording 1.50.12, Kathryn Sneyd came home in 1.52.12, Marie Latreche in 1.52.22, Jacqui Elson-Whittaker in 1.56.33, Steven Wakefield in 1.56.34, Richard Jones in 1.57.32, Paula Alder in 1.56.50, Matthew Hawker in 1.58.39, James Whitehouse in 1.59.17, Nigel Warrington in 2.00.34, Keith Whitehouse in 2.03.50, Suzi Geraghty in 2.04.49, Natalie Litchfield in 2.07.54, John Gould in 2.13.07, Charlotte Tonks in 2.13.34, Amanda Dawes in 2.13.36 with Ingrid Cain recording the same time.

In the North East Rebecca Warren joined 57,000 others live on the BBC to take part in the Great North Run. Although some way behind the winner, Mo Farah, she recorded a commendable time of 1.47.03.

Bathth gets closer to team return

WOLVES captain Danny Bathth is nearing a first-team comeback after returning to action.

Bathth played for an hour in a goalless under-21 clash against Black Country rivals West Bromwich Albion at Molineux. He appeared to come through the game unscathed.

The 24-year-old centre-half has been sidelined since April with a stress fracture to his foot.

But he is on track for a first-team return this month, as predicted by boss Kenny Jackett.

And with Wolves yet to keep a clean sheet this season, his comeback will be welcomed. Bathth Tweeted: "Good to be back on the grass today!"

★★★

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